

**K. Brett Marston
Attorney at Law**

August 17, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I and the other Roanoke, Virginia attorneys listed below write to express our strong support for the nomination of United States Magistrate Judge Robert S. Ballou to the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia.

We are attorneys practicing at law firms in the Roanoke Valley of Virginia, with a wide variety of civil and criminal law practices, representing a range of clients. All of us share an interest in continuing the tradition of a strong judiciary in the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia. This interest unites us in soundly endorsing Magistrate Judge Robert S. Ballou for the vacancy on this court.

Through our years of practice in the Roanoke area, we know Judge Ballou from a variety of perspectives, including appearing before him in his present role, serving as opposing counsel when he was in practice, being personal friends with him, and working with him in bar organizations. Judge Ballou has the attributes that should make him successful as a district judge. He has the intellect, curiosity, commitment, temperament, integrity, attention to detail, and thoughtfulness necessary for the job.

In his present role as Magistrate Judge, Judge Ballou has shown these qualities in action. We have no doubt he will continue to do an excellent job and maintain the high-level of performance and professionalism for which the Western District of Virginia is known.

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We respectfully request your swift confirmation of Judge Robert S. Ballou to this important and appropriate position. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let us know. Otherwise, thank you for your consideration of Judge Ballou's nomination.

Very truly yours,



K. Brett Marston

Thomas J. Bondurant
Matthew W. Broughton
Todd A. Leeson
Powell M. Leitch
J. Scott Sexton
Evans G. Edwards
Paul G. Klockenbrink
Kirk M. Sosebee
Andrew M. Bowman
Glenn W. Pulley
Alicia M. Grubb
Maxwell H. Wiegard
Guy M. Harbert
Charles "Trey" Smith, III
Monica T. Monday
Cate J. Huff
W. David Paxton
Charles L. Williams
E. Scott Austin
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Christopher W. Stevens
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c: Senator Mark R. Warner (*via e-mail, c/o Jay Swanson, jay_swanson@warner.senate.gov*)
Senator Timothy M. Kaine (*via e-mail, c/o Traci Hong, traci_hong@kaine.senate.gov*)