



**New Mexico**  
**Department of Public Safety**

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CABINET SECRETARY

**TIM Q. JOHNSON**  
CHIEF / DEPUTY SECRETARY

**BENJAMIN A. BAKER**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

September 27, 2022

Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

Please accept this correspondence in support Mr. Matthew Garcia's nomination to serve as District Court Judge for the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico.

We write this letter in our capacities as the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the New Mexico State Police Chief, respectively. Together, we have served as law enforcement officials for nearly 50 years. Our careers have spanned every aspect of police work at every rank, including patrol, criminal investigations, narcotics unit, the SWAT, and the Special Investigations Division. Individually we have each received numerous accolades and commendations for our work in law enforcement. During our decades of experience in law enforcement, we have had the opportunity to interact with hundreds of lawyers, and we have appeared in numerous state and federal courts across New Mexico.

With this background in mind, we express our strong support for Mr. Garcia's appointment to the federal bench. During his tenure in the New Mexico Governor's Office, he has supported our law enforcement community with sound legal guidance. In all instances, we have found him to be approachable and fair. Further, because he is extremely bright, we have the utmost confidence in his direction.

In addition, Mr. Garcia has supported our law enforcement community by advocating for increases to our department budget, allowing the agency to increase staff and provide New Mexico State Police with a 16 percent salary increase—the largest in recent memory. He also worked with the Legislature to obtain a \$50 million appropriation that all law enforcement agencies operating within New Mexico can access for recruiting and retention efforts. It is safe to say that neither of these outcomes would have been achieved but for Mr. Garcia's efforts.

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In conclusion, as registered republicans, and law enforcement officials, we have no hesitation in offering our full support for Mr. Garcia's candidacy. In our view, he will make an excellent judge that will be fair to all those appearing in front of him.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jason R. Bowie  
Cabinet Secretary

Sincerely,



Timothy Q. Johnson  
New Mexico State Police Chief