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January 21, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

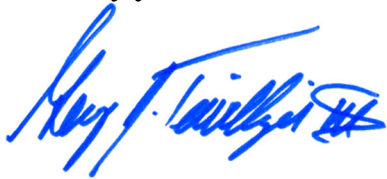
When concluding my 15 years of public service in the Department of Justice, serving as Deputy Attorney General and Acting Attorney General, I came to know firsthand the weight of the responsibilities and demands those positions carry. As a result of that experience, I am extremely gratified that President Biden has chosen to nominate Merrick Garland to be Attorney General. I have known Judge Garland since he was an Assistant United States Attorney in Washington, DC, during the time that I was privileged to serve as Deputy Attorney General in a Republican administration. He had primary responsibility for aspects of a politically charged international bank fraud investigation as to which I was providing direct supervision. I was impressed by his level-headed judgement then and all that I have experienced of Judge Garland since, including when arguing cases before him, has only enhanced my convictions regarding his quality of intellect, impartial judgment, and commitment to the rule of law.

More and more, the Justice Department is thrust into matters of great public interest and increased political controversy. As such, it is critically important that its politically appointed leadership exercise the authority to supervise the Department's activities with great care and attention to the interests of justice above all else. I am confident that Judge Garland will draw on his own prior experience in the Department to exercise good judgment and courage in that role. I also believe he will work hard to foster an atmosphere and a culture in the Department that fully lives up to its commitments to do justice without fear or favor.

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
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Page 2

It is quite possible, and, indeed, necessary, for the Attorney General to be both a trusted advisor to the President on legal matters as well as an independent enforcer of the law. I believe that Judge Garland's hard-earned record of impartiality on the bench and apolitical treatment of cases before him hold every promise that he can and will fill the role of Attorney General as it is meant, by our Constitution and laws, to be performed.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George J. Terwilliger III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and "T".

George J. Terwilliger III

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
The Honorable Ted Cruz