

SENATOR DICK SEARS  
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September 6, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-221, The Capital  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-230, The Capital  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

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

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

As a Vermont State Senator and as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee it is an honor to strongly support the nomination of Associate Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court Beth Robinson to become a United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

I first got to know Beth Robinson when she was a partner with one of Vermont's most prestigious law firms Langrock Sperry & Wool. She had been working as a lead attorney with the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force. In December of 2019 The Vermont Supreme Court found excluding gay and lesbian couples from marriage was unconstitutional under Vermont law, but the effect of the Courts

decision was suspended to permit the Legislature to consider and enact legislation consistent with the Supreme Court's rulings.

In 2000, the House passed bill that established all the rights of civil marriage known as Civil Unions. That bill then came to my committee and it was then that I got to know Justice Robinson as both a brilliant attorney and a pragmatist as well. In July 2000, Vermont became the first state to introduce Civil Unions and in 2009 Vermont became the first state to enact same sex marriage without being required to as a result of court decisions.

In 2011 Beth Robinson became legal counsel to then Governor Peter Shumlin and I once again had the honor to work with Beth Robinson on several matters that came before the Senate Judiciary Committee during the 2011 session. I once again found Beth to be both easy to work with and extremely helpful in gaining support for one the Governors and my major initiatives known as the War on Recidivism which passed in 2011.

In October of 2011, Governor Shumlin appointed Beth Robinson to fill a vacancy on the Vermont Supreme Court and in February of 2012 I reported her nomination as an Associate Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court which was approved on a 26-0 roll call vote.

In closing, I believe the Beth Robinson will be an outstanding jurist as member of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. If there are further questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Dick Sears*

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