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October 21, 2019

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman, United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member, United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Lawrence VanDyke to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Feinstein:

As the Nevada Chapter Chair of the Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA), I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to report favorably the nomination of Lawrence VanDyke to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

It is vital that circuit court judges be lawyers of the highest quality who possess immense respect for the rule of law, deep understanding of the separation of powers and federalism, great reverence for the United States Constitution, and thoughtful judicial temperament. Lawrence VanDyke undoubtedly possesses these qualities.

Lawrence VanDyke is an exceptional choice to fill a Nevada seat on the Ninth Circuit. Prior to his recent title as the Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division at the U.S. Department of Justice, Mr. VanDyke served as the Nevada Solicitor General from 2015 to 2019. As Nevada's top appellate attorney, Mr. VanDyke diligently argued on behalf of Nevada in the highest courts of the United States.

Further, Mr. VanDyke's experience in the Ninth Circuit is evident. Prior to serving as the Solicitor General of Nevada, he similarly served as the Solicitor General of Montana. If confirmed, Mr. VanDyke would become the first circuit judge who has served as solicitor general for two different states, both in the Ninth Circuit. He has been counsel of record on twenty-eight briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court and has argued a majority of more than twenty appeals in the Ninth Circuit.

Mr. VanDyke has argued alongside diverse parties such as the ACLU and Alliance Defending Freedom in his commitment to protect important constitutional liberties. This commitment to the Constitution is one needed by a circuit court judge and makes VanDyke an ideal nominee for a seat on the Ninth Circuit.

For these reasons and many more, I urge the Committee on the Judiciary to report Lawrence VanDyke's nomination to the Senate favorably and quickly.

Sincerely,

David C. O'Mara