TIM GRIFFIN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 17, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We, the undersigned Attorneys General, write to express our strong support for the nomination of Arkansas Supreme Court Justice J. Cody Hiland to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Justice Hiland's distinguished career in public service, extensive legal experience, and steadfast commitment to the rule of law make him exceptionally well qualified to serve on the federal appellate bench.

Justice Hiland brings to this nomination a wide breadth of experience across the state and federal legal systems. After beginning his legal career in private practice and serving as an attorney for the Arkansas Public Service Commission, he was twice elected Prosecuting Attorney for Arkansas's Twentieth Judicial District. In 2017, President Trump nominated him to serve as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and the Senate confirmed him by voice vote. During his tenure, Justice Hiland led an office responsible for prosecuting federal crimes and representing the United States in civil litigation across 41 Arkansas counties. His dedication to public safety and the administration of justice earned him recognition from the Arkansas Prosecuting Attorneys Association and the Arkansas State Police Foundation.

Following his service as United States Attorney, Justice Hiland served as Chief Legal Counsel for the Arkansas Department of Public Safety before his appointment to the Arkansas Supreme Court in 2023. As a justice on Arkansas's highest court, he has gained invaluable experience resolving complex legal questions and interpreting the Constitution and laws of his State. His experience as a prosecutor, legal adviser, and appellate judge gives him a particularly valuable understanding of the distinct responsibilities of each branch of government and the proper role of the judiciary.

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As state Attorneys General, we recognize the importance of a federal judiciary that faithfully interprets the Constitution, respects the separation of powers, and understands the constitutional balance between federal and state authority. Justice Hiland's experience on both sides of the state-federal divide uniquely positions him to appreciate these foundational principles. We are confident that he will bring sound judgment, intellectual rigor, and a commitment to applying the law as written to his service on the Eighth Circuit.

Justice Hiland has dedicated his career to serving the public and upholding the rule of law. His legal experience, record of public service, and judicial qualifications make him an outstanding choice for the Eighth Circuit. We strongly support his nomination and urge the Senate to confirm him without delay.

Sincerely,

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Brenna Bird
Iowa Attorney General

Russell M. Coleman
Kentucky Attorney General

Liz Murrill
Louisiana Attorney General

Mike Hilgers
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Andy Wilson
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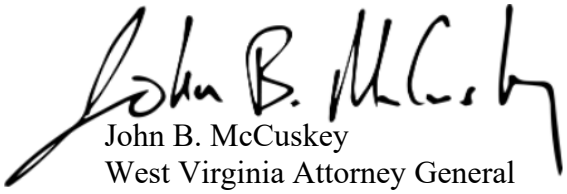
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