July 25, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

As governors, we stand in support of President Donald Trump’s nomination of Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh and encourage the United States Senate to move expeditiously to confirm his appointment as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. We make this request based on his track record of upholding the Constitution and his distinguished credentials that eminently qualify him to serve on the nation’s highest court.

As Judge Kavanaugh stated in his remarks to the nation, his judicial philosophy is straightforward. He believes a judge must be independent and open-minded and must interpret the law as written. As his record shows, he will interpret the Constitution as written, informed by history, tradition, and precedent. Judge Kavanaugh will adjudicate legal disputes with impartiality, preserving the Constitution of the United States and the rule of law.

Judge Kavanaugh’s impeccable credentials demonstrate he is worthy of this nomination. After receiving his undergraduate and law degrees from Yale, Judge Kavanaugh clerked for Justice Anthony Kennedy of the Supreme Court, Judge Walter Stapleton of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and Judge Alex Kozinski of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He went on to become a Bristow Fellow in the Office of the Solicitor General of the United States, an associate in the Office of Independent Counsel Ken Starr, and a partner at Kirkland & Ellis. Judge Kavanaugh later served President George W. Bush as associate counsel, senior associate counsel, and assistant to the president and staff secretary. Judge Kavanaugh also teaches at Harvard Law School.

Nominated to the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate in 2006, Judge Kavanaugh has written roughly 300 opinions, which have been cited by judges across the country. If confirmed as Associate Justice, we have no doubt Judge Kavanaugh will continue to set aside his personal preferences and make decisions based on the law.
Thirty years ago, President Ronald Reagan nominated Justice Anthony Kennedy, a man who devoted his career to securing the liberty of our nation, to the Supreme Court of the United States. It seems right and fitting for one of Justice Kennedy’s own law clerks to follow in his footsteps and continue our nation's great tradition of the rule of law. We strongly urge the United States Senate to expeditiously confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh and look forward to him serving as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

Governor Bill Haslam  
Tennessee

Governor Kay Ivey  
Alabama

Governor Douglas A. Ducey  
Arizona

Governor Asa Hutchinson  
Arkansas

Governor Rick Scott  
Florida

Governor Nathan Deal  
Georgia

Governor Edward J. Baza Calvo  
Guam

Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter  
Idaho

Governor Eric Holcomb  
Indiana

Governor Kim Reynolds  
Iowa

Governor Jeff Colyer  
Kansas

Governor Matt Bevin  
Kentucky

Governor Paul R. LePage  
Maine

Governor Rick Snyder  
Michigan

Governor Phil Bryant  
Mississippi

Governor Michael L. Parson  
Missouri

Governor Pete Ricketts  
Nebraska

Governor Brian Sandoval  
Nevada
Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
New Hampshire

Governor Susana Martinez  
New Mexico

Governor Doug Burgum  
North Dakota

Governor Ralph Torres  
Northern Mariana Islands

Governor John R. Kasich  
Ohio

Governor Mary Fallin  
Oklahoma

Governor Henry McMaster  
South Carolina

Governor Dennis Daugaard  
South Dakota

Governor Greg Abbott  
Texas

Governor Gary R. Herbert  
Utah

Governor Jim Justice  
West Virginia

Governor Scott Walker  
Wisconsin

Governor Matthew H. Mead  
Wyoming

cc: Chairman Chuck Grassley  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510