

# STATE OF ALASKA



## LEGISLATURE

October 20, 2020

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
U.S. Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dan Sullivan  
U.S. Senate  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Murkowski and Sullivan,

As elected leaders from the Alaska Senate and House, we urge you to support the confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Judge Barrett's professional reputation, even before President Donald Trump nominated her to the Supreme Court, was well-established. She is a woman of remarkable talent—a brilliant legal scholar and independent jurist. The American Bar Association, an important endorsement for any nominee, rated Judge Barrett as "well-qualified."

We agree she is well-qualified, and after a week of testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee and in front of an entire nation, we believe any honest arbiter would also agree. Under the bright lights, without notes or pause, Judge Barrett calmly and repeatedly showed why President Trump nominated her. She also showed why so many—from across the ideological spectrum—have supported her confirmation.

There were two key moments that indicate Judge Barrett's legal philosophy and her independence. We know both you greatly value independence and respect for the role of the judiciary in our Constitutional Republic. Judge Barrett made it clear she meets that standard with flying colors.

Early in her confirmation hearing, Judge Barrett said, "Courts are not designed to solve every problem or right every wrong in public life. The policy decisions and value judgments of government must be made by the political branches elected by and accountable to the People."

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Further, when asked what type of justice she would be, Judge Barrett told the senior senator from California, Senator Dianne Feinstein, "...if I were confirmed, you would be getting Justice Barrett, not Justice Scalia."

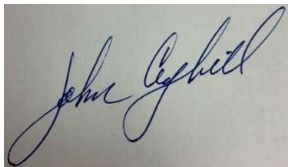
There can be no question, Judge Barrett would be resolutely independent, her own person, guided only by the Constitution. In time, she would be viewed as a titan on the bench and an inspiration to so many across the nation. We strongly believe Judge Barrett should be confirmed to the Supreme Court before Election Day, and we are calling on you to support her confirmation.

There has been little cause to celebrate our politics lately, but Judge Barrett has given us hope. Consider the depth of her support. All 34 of Judge Barrett's fellow Supreme Court Clerks—all with differing viewpoints on judicial philosophy and certainly their politics—said she is, "...a woman of remarkable intellect and character."

Every single one of Judge Barrett's Notre Dame Law School faculty members have praised her ability, "...a brilliant teacher and scholar, and a warm and generous colleague." Indeed, 470 law student graduates echoed this sentiment in glowing terms and with striking clarity on her impartiality.

After her thorough vetting it is readily apparent Judge Barrett will make a fine Associate Justice. It is clear one can disagree with Judge Barrett's jurisprudence and yet support her for the highest court in our nation; it is remarkably refreshing. We stand hopeful that Judge Barrett is destined for greatness on the Supreme Court and we hope you will support her on the Senate floor later this month.

Sincerely,



Senator John Coghill



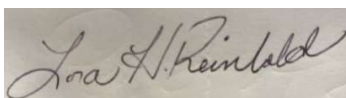
Senator Mia Costello



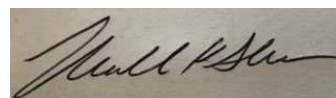
Senator Shelley Hughes



Senator Peter Micciche



Senator Lora Reinbold



Senator Mike Shower



Senator David Wilson



Representative Ben Carpenter



Representative Sharon Jackson

Representative Mike Prax



Representative George Rauscher



Representative Colleen Sullivan-Leonard



Representative Steve Thompson



Representative Sarah Vance



Representative David Eastman



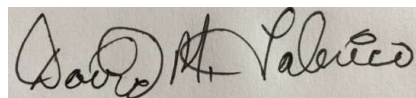
Representative DeLena Johnson



Representative Sara Rasmussen



Representative Laddie Shaw



Representative Dave Talerico



Representative Cathy Tilton