

West Virginians Urge Sen. Manchin to Support Confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court of the United States

July 26, 2018

Dear Senator Manchin:

On behalf of thousands of West Virginians who deeply value our nation's Constitution, the undersigned organizations and officials write to urge your support for the swift confirmation of President Trump's outstanding nominee to the United States Supreme Court, Judge Brett Kavanaugh.

Judge Kavanaugh's nomination is the second time in recent years that Americans have had the historic opportunity to add a defender of the Constitution to the Supreme Court. Recent polling shows a large majority of West Virginians support President Trump's selection and want him confirmed. We are pleased you share their key criteria for supporting Judge Kavanaugh – whether he will follow, "the rule of law and the Constitution." He has a proven track record of doing so. We are also pleased that you have listened to West Virginians and broken with your partisan leaders in the Senate by agreeing to meet with Judge Kavanaugh.

However, we—along with many concerned Mountaineers—consider any effort to obstruct this highly qualified nominee from being confirmed as a threat to deny West Virginians, and every American, an exemplary jurist in the mold of Justice Neil Gorsuch, whom you voted to confirm.

Hanging your support on how a judicial nominee would rule on any case which may come before the Court is inappropriate. Such politically-motivated rhetoric not only distorts the Court's role, but undermines the consideration of fundamental principles. The role of the Supreme Court is to interpret the law, not make policy. A nominee must be evaluated on his or her ability to practice judicial restraint devoid of political agenda, to interpret the law as written instead of legislating from the bench, and to defend the Constitution.

We strongly urge you to rise above those who are playing politics with Americans' constitutional rights and, instead, work to ensure those rights are safeguarded from judicial activism.

Together, on behalf of the majority of West Virginians, we encourage you to expedite Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation to the Supreme Court and urge your colleagues to do the same.

Sincerely,

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| Rep. David McKinley, P.E. United States Congress, West Virginia, First District | Hon. Mitch Carmichael, West Virginia State Senate President | Hon. Amy Summers, West Virginia House of Delegates, 49th District | Jason Huffman, West Virginia State Director Americans for Prosperity |
| Rep. Alex Mooney United States Congress, West Virginia, Second District | Hon. Ryan Ferns, West Virginia State Senate Majority Leader | Hon. Jordan Hill, West Virginia House of Delegates, 41st District | Grover Norquist, President Americans for Tax Reform |
| Rep. Evan Jenkins United States Congress, West Virginia, Third District | Hon. Bill Cole Fmr. West Virginia State Senate President | Hon. Eric Householder, West Virginia House of Delegates, 64th District | Bryan Hoyleman, President/ CEO Associated Builders and Contractors of West Virginia |
| Hon. Kent Leonhardt West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture | Hon. Mike Azinger, West Virginia Senate, 10th District | Hon. Kayla Kessinger, West Virginia House of Delegates, 32nd District | Roman Stauffer, Executive Director Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse - West Virginia |
| Hon. Mac Warner West Virginia Secretary of State | Hon. Patricia Rucker, West Virginia State Senate, 16th District | Hon. Eric Nelson, West Virginia House of Delegates, 35th District | |
| | Hon. Chanda Adkins, West Virginia House of Delegates, 31st District | Hon. Rupie Phillips, West Virginia House of Delegates, 24th District | |
| | Hon. Marty Gearheart, West Virginia House of Delegates, 27th District | Hon. Roger Romine, West Virginia House of Delegates, 6th District | |
| | Hon. Danny Hamrick, West Virginia House of Delegates, 48th District | Hon. Joe Statler, West Virginia House of Delegates, 51st District | |
| | Hon. Jason Harshbarger, West Virginia House of Delegates, 7th District | Hon. Guy Ward, West Virginia House of Delegates, 50th District | |
| | Hon. Joshua Higginbotham, West Virginia House of Delegates, 13th District | Hon. Jill Upson West Virginia House of Delegates, 65 th District | |