

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 15, 2017

Chairman Charles Grassley  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

Re: *Nomination of David Stras to U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit*

Dear Chairman Grassley:

We write to strongly support President Trump's nomination of Minnesota Supreme Court Justice David Stras to fill a vacancy on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

We were pleased to jointly recommend Justice Stras' nomination to the White House last month. Before making that recommendation, each of us met with Justice Stras personally, reviewed his qualifications for this position, and received input from across Minnesota's legal community. In addition to considering our recommendation, we understand the White House also contacted Senator Amy Klobuchar and Senator Al Franken regarding the vacancy, and Justice Stras has offered to meet with each senator.

Justice Stras' nomination is supported by a diverse group of practicing attorneys, academics, former judges, and litigants representing a wide cross-section of Minnesota's legal community. Justice Stras' nomination has overwhelming support from his former colleagues at the University of Minnesota Law School and Minnesota Supreme Court. He also is highly respected by attorneys and litigants who have appeared before him, regardless of their political or philosophical leanings.

Indeed, Justice Stras' reputation throughout Minnesota reflects the best qualities of a judge—he approaches each case with an open mind and makes decisions based on reasoned analysis from existing precedent. We believe Justice Stras is uniquely qualified for the Eighth Circuit because, in addition to his outstanding qualifications for this position, Justice Stras has a reputation throughout Minnesota's legal community as intellectually rigorous, fair-minded, and faithful to the law.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of service as you consider Justice Stras' confirmation.

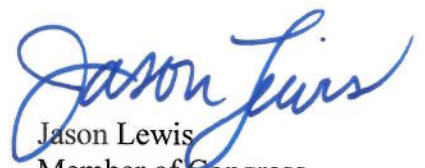
Sincerely,



Erik Paulsen  
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Jason Lewis  
Member of Congress