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Dear Friend:

Thank you for contacting my office in regard to the nomination of Judge Robert Bork to be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. I appreciate having your views on one of the most important constitutional issues of this decade.

The Senate Judiciary Committee recently concluded extensive hearings on Judge Bork's fitness for the position. During this examination we carefully scrutinized his personal testimony, past writings, and, most importantly, his record as Solicitor General and judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. We also heard from many other witnesses on both sides of the issue.

While nearly everyone, including his opponents, acknowledged Judge Bork's personal integrity, honesty, legal capacity and ability, and excellent judicial temperament, he continued to be viciously attacked with misleading claims that he was insensitive to women's and minorities' rights. To the contrary, in fact, his record of public service, both as Solicitor General of the United States and as a judge on the Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, does not support these extreme allegations. As Solicitor General, he sought greater rights for women and minorities than the Supreme Court was willing to recognize at the time; and, as a judge, he has ruled for women and minorities in seven out of eight cases.

It is abundantly clear that Judge Bork is one of the most qualified individuals ever nominated to serve on the Supreme Court. He was an outstanding law student, successful trial practitioner, leading law professor, esteemed author and lecturer, excellent Solicitor General, and respected judge on the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. His record during his many years of public service reveals a man of high integrity who has fairly interpreted the law to protect all classes of citizens. Not one of his opinions as a judge has been reversed; and, in fact, the Supreme Court adopted his position six times when he had the courage to dissent from the majority of his circuit court colleagues.

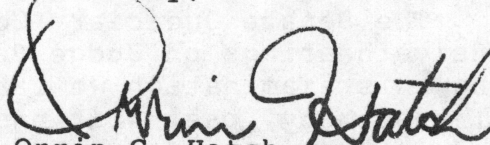
The duty of the President to nominate and the duty of the Senate to advise and consent with respect to Supreme

Court justices are among the most important functions of our constitutional government. Our joint responsibility is to place the most qualified, able person on the Court. It is unfortunate that Judge Bork's detractors have mislead the public in their attempt to derail this nomination. To reduce the debate to strictly political grounds is to do a major disservice to both the institution of the Court and the nation as a whole.

While some may disagree, in my mind it would be hard to find anyone who could match the proven ability and scholarly background of Judge Bork.

Again, thank you for bringing your thoughts to my attention.

Sincerely,

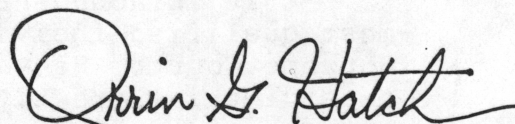


Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

OGH:rrj

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