



Senator Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington D.C., 20510

Senator Jeff Merkley
313 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington D.C., 20510

September 19, 2017

Dear Senators Wyden and Merkley:

As members of the Oregon Senate, we represent both parties and our constituents live in every corner of the State. We are united in urging your prompt consideration of Ryan Bounds, a native of Umatilla County, to succeed Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain of Portland on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Judge O'Scannlain announced that he was taking senior status a year ago; his seat has been vacant for nine months.

The Ninth Circuit is the ultimate arbiter of almost all federal cases arising in the West. Its rulings reach the management of our forests, the flow of our rivers, the harvesting of our crops, and the grazing of our livestock. The Court's influence over the rural and natural-resource-based economies of our respective districts cannot be overstated. Nevertheless, its judges are concentrated overwhelmingly in California's largest cities—indeed, there are nearly twice as many active judges sitting in California as in the other eight states of the Ninth Circuit combined. All Oregonians should be eager to redress this imbalance with the appointment of an accomplished Oregonian without delay rather than risk inviting the President to appoint a candidate of unknown merit and temperament from another state.

We appreciate that you must carefully evaluate Mr. Bounds's qualifications before discharging your constitutional responsibility of providing advice and consent to the President. We are confident, however, that if you were to meet with him and review his range of experience in all three branches of the federal government, his sincere commitment to civic service, and his outstanding academic credentials, you would readily concur that Ryan Bounds should be considered by the Senate and would be easily confirmed.

cc. Congressman Greg Walden



Bill Hansell

Senator Bill Hansell

Tim Knopp

Senator Tim Knopp

Betsy Johnson

Senator Betsy Johnson

Fred Girod

Senator Fred Girod

Dennis Linthicum

Senator Dennis Linthicum

Kim Thatcher

Senator Kim Thatcher

Jackie Winters

Senator Jackie Winters

Arnie Roblan

Senator Arnie Roblan

Ted Ferrioli

Senator Ted Ferrioli

Herman E. Baertschiger Jr.

Senator Herman Baertschiger Jr.

Alan DeBoer

Senator Alan DeBoer

Jeff Kruse

Senator Jeff Kruse

Alan Olsen

Senator Alan Olsen

Chuck Thomsen

Senator Chuck Thomsen

Lee Beyer

Senator Lee Beyer