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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
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Dear Mr. President:

Congratulations on your inauguration. I look forward to working with you on growing our economy and improving the lives of all Americans. As you said during your Inaugural Address, “We, the citizens of America, are now joined in a great national effort to rebuild our country and restore its promise for all of our people.”

In order to fully restore America’s promise, our nation needs federal judges who will be true to our nation’s Constitution, laws, and founding principles. My fellow Oregonian Diarmuid F. O’Sconnlain has been a leading defender of these principles from his seat on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for more than 30 years. In appointing his successor, you have the chance to cement his legacy—and yours—for decades to come. I write to express my firm conviction that Assistant United States Attorney Ryan W. Bounds is the strongest candidate to continue Judge O’Sconnlain’s remarkable record and serve our nation proudly as a judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

A former law clerk for Judge O’Sconnlain, Ryan has the combination of sterling academic achievement, high-level government experience, and commitment to conservative legal principles needed to serve as an appellate court judge. Moreover, at 43 years of age, he is ideally situated to cement your legacy as President by serving on the court for decades in the future.

Ryan was born and raised in rural Umatilla County, Oregon—part of my congressional district—where his family has lived for more than a century. He attended the public schools in his hometown of Hermiston, ultimately graduating at the top of his class from Hermiston High School. I know that Ryan is proud of his small-town upbringing and the values instilled in him by a small town in eastern Oregon. Throughout his remarkable academic and professional career, he has never forgotten his roots.

Ryan pursued his undergraduate studies at Stanford University, graduating with honors and distinction in 1995. As an undergraduate, Ryan served as an editor of *The Stanford Review*, the conservative campus weekly co-founded by Peter Thiel. After graduation, Ryan moved to Washington, D.C. to join the staff of Republican Senator Mark O. Hatfield, Oregon’s longest-serving senator.

Later, he enrolled in Yale Law School. On campus, he became an even-more committed conservative through his leadership of the Federalist Society and his work as a research assistant for the acclaimed constitutional textualist Akhil Reed Amar. At Yale, Ryan came to appreciate the singular importance of fidelity to text and original meaning as the indispensable restraint on the federal judiciary.

As the rare Oregonian with a sincere commitment to conservative jurisprudence and a distinguished academic record, Ryan was quickly recruited for a prestigious clerkship with Judge O'Scannlain. During his time in the judge's chambers, Ryan learned to approach each case as an opportunity to defend our Constitutional principles, as well as a deep respect for tradition, precedent, and deference to the political branches of the State and federal governments.

Ryan continued his career as a government lawyer in Washington, D.C., where he advised the Justice Department's leadership on many of the significant legal controversies and developments of the last 15 years. From 2004 through 2007, Ryan worked in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Policy as counsel, chief of staff, and deputy assistant attorney general. There he worked on civil justice reform, intellectual property protection, immigration enforcement, and crime-victims' rights.

To keep his litigation skills sharp, Ryan volunteered to defend immigration judges' removal orders in circuit courts around the country. He also played a key role in the vetting and confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito. Ryan's experience with the Supreme Court appointment process—and its aftermath—left him with no doubt about the value of a clear judicial philosophy consistently applied. After his time at the Office of Legal Policy, he continued to pursue conservative legal priorities—including the implementation of the Supreme Court's *Heller* decision—as special assistant to President George W. Bush for legal and immigration policy in 2008.

Afterward, Ryan moved home to Oregon to serve as a federal prosecutor. During this time, Ryan has advocated the government's position before both trial courts and the Ninth Circuit in cases involving terrorism and terrorist financing, illegal immigration, child pornography, and tax fraud.

Ryan Bounds is uniquely qualified for this judgeship. His commitment to the rule of law, liberty, and self-government are, in my mind, beyond question. He comes with an unsurpassed record despite his relative youth, and his deep roots in Oregon make him a favorite son for the Oregon seat on the bench. I strongly urge his appointment. Thank you for your consideration.

Most respectfully,



Greg Walden
U.S. Representative
Oregon's Second District