



October 31, 2017

Hon. Richard Burr
Chairman
U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
211 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Mark Warner
Vice Chairman
U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
211 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Hon. Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

Re: Nomination of John C. Demers to serve as Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, Department of Justice

Dear Chairman Burr and Vice Chairman Warner,

We are the Co-Chairmen of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia's Committee on National Security Law, Policy & Practice. We write on behalf of the Committee in support of the nomination of John C. Demers to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division of the Department of Justice.

The Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division occupies a critical position within the U.S. national security community, focusing the Department's various efforts related to individuals and entities that pose threats to the safety and security of Americans at home and abroad, while simultaneously maintaining adherence to law and the Constitution. It is recognized that there is a fundamental tension between safeguarding our nation and preserving the liberties enshrined in the Constitution. The fact that the National Security Division has been able to largely successfully navigate this tension is a testament not only to the division itself, but to the lawyers who have managed the division on a day-to-day basis. The position also works to coordinate the various mechanisms that the United States government has available to it to address these threats: intelligence, military, diplomatic, economic, and of course, law enforcement.

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Mr. Demers has demonstrated the legal capabilities necessary to lead the National Security Division's lawyers, including in his prior role as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the division. He is well known in the national security legal community for his exceptional intellect and deep understanding of the relevant laws and policies. But while technical legal ability is necessary, it is not sufficient, to support the significant responsibilities of the division. Equally important is a deep-seated commitment to the rule of law and to our democratic principles – a commitment that Mr. Demers made years ago, and has maintained through his public and private sector service.

Accordingly, we wish to communicate our strong support for Mr. Demers, and trust that he will be confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and take his place leading the Department of Justice's National Security Division.

Regards,

Steven A. Cash
Co-Chairman

Regards,

Kenneth L. Wainstein
Co-Chairman

cc: Mr. John C. Demers
Vice President and Assistant General Counsel
Government Operations
The Boeing Company
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Arlington, VA 22202-4208