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February 14, 2011

Senator Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
United States Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

I once discussed on a plane ride to Washington with you your time as a Prosecutor. Today it is my pleasure and honor to write a letter supporting the nomination of a fellow prosecutor, Caitlin J. Halligan, for the DC Circuit Court of Appeals.

In my service as District Attorney of Franklin County in rural upstate New York and as President of the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York, I have had the distinct privilege of working closely with Ms. Halligan during the past year. In her position as General Counsel to Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., she has consistently demonstrated her unconditional support of the interests of law enforcement and has lent her exceptional expertise as an advocate for the rule of law to the complex issues that confront our state across its many varied interests.

Having first heard of Ms. Halligan's remarkable legal abilities during her tenure as Solicitor General of New York State under Governor George Pataki, I am delighted now to have learned firsthand that she is a consummate "lawyer's lawyer". She has unparalleled legal reasoning skills and a firm commitment to our constitutional values.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for this exceptional judicial candidate.

Very truly yours,

Derek P. Champagne
District Attorney

DPC/rlb

cc. Senator Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
United States Senate Judiciary Committee