

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 9, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We renew our request that John Lausch, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois (NDIL), be permitted to remain in his position until the confirmation of his successor.

Although Mr. Lausch was nominated by President Trump, we endorsed his nomination after our non-partisan screening committee reviewed Mr. Lausch's qualifications and gave him a favorable recommendation. Mr. Lausch was confirmed by the Senate by unanimous voice vote on November 9, 2017, and he was sworn in to a four-year term as U.S. Attorney on November 22, 2017. He has served with professionalism and without partisanship, including in his handling of highly sensitive investigations.

We recognize that Presidents have the right to remove U.S. Attorneys at will, and we acknowledge that President Trump abruptly terminated the tenure of Mr. Lausch's predecessor as NDIL U.S. Attorney, Zach Fardon. However, there is precedent for U.S. Attorneys in the Northern District of Illinois to remain in office across administrations in order to conclude sensitive investigations.

We have made our position clear on Mr. Lausch's retention both publicly and privately, including in direct conversations with the White House Counsel as recently as last week. We reiterate today that John Lausch should be permitted to remain in place until the confirmation of his successor.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator