June 30, 2017

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Senator Feinstein:

We are writing in support of the nomination of Jeffrey Bossert Clark to be Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) of the U.S. Department of Justice.

As former General Counsels and Deputy General Counsels of the U.S. Department of Energy, under presidents of both political parties, we know the importance of ENRD and the importance of having a preeminent lawyer and litigator as Assistant Attorney General for the Division. Each Presidential Administration has different priorities and objectives, and each ENRD Assistant Attorney General will face unique challenges and assignments. But given ENRD’s important portfolio and the fact its work touches every American, one thing must remain constant – that the leader of ENRD be an individual with very strong legal skills, integrity, judgment and knowledge of the Division’s work.

Jeff Clark fits that profile. We have worked closely with Jeff and/or have known him by reputation for many years. He has the skills, knowledge and temperament to be an effective and successful Assistant Attorney General and leader of the Environment and Natural Resources Division. He knows the structure and missions of DOJ and ENRD, and has worked with many of the laws he would be charged with helping administer and enforce. We believe Jeff would successfully navigate the difficult legal and management issues that can arise both within ENRD and DOJ themselves, as well as those with other federal agencies and with external parties.

We note that we may not agree with each and every policy position Jeff may have advocated or claim he may have made in the past in his personal capacity or on behalf of his clients – we may even strongly disagree with some of them. But the Assistant Attorney General for ENRD does not set energy or environmental policy. The role of an Assistant Attorney General is to ensure that the federal government adheres to the law and to represent the United States in court. For this role, Mr. Clark is unquestionably qualified, and so we strongly encourage you to favorably consider his nomination.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas W. Smith  
Lee Liberman Otis  
David R. Hill  
Scott Blake Harris  
Steven P. Croley