



United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Oppose the judicial nomination of Joshua Kindred to the United States District Court for the District of Alaska.

Dear Senator,

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) believes our earth is worth fighting for because everyone has a right to clean air, water, lands, and a safe, healthy community. Each year, LCV publishes the National Environmental Scorecard, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The Scorecard is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

We urge you to oppose the judicial nomination of Joshua Kindred to the United States District Court for the District of Alaska. Kindred has spent much his career defending the fossil fuel industry, disregarding scientific evidence, and showing a personal disdain¹ for those with whom he disagrees. As counsel to the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, a lobbying institution primarily advocating for international fossil fuel corporations, Kindred fought for the expansion of drilling projects across Alaska and repeatedly argued against protections designed to ensure Alaska's clean air, water, and wildlife. Kindred adopted a troubling stance that corporate profits should outweigh critical environmental and public health benefits, using that position to oppose protections for declining salmon populations,² public comment periods for drilling projects,³ limits on burning garbage,⁴ natural gas leak inspections,⁵ and more.

In his aggressive advocacy for fossil fuel interests, Kindred also made blanket assertions that ignored conflicting scientific evidence, including "oil and gas activities do not threaten polar bears" and "there are no current threats to the survival and recovery of Arctic ringed seals."⁶ In one of the most extreme examples, he argued hydraulic fracturing "does not pose any harm to the environment."⁷ This statement followed the EPA releasing a contradictory report providing "scientific evidence that hydraulic fracturing activities can impact drinking water," including contamination that makes wells unusable for human consumption.⁸ Kindred's willingness to blatantly disregard scientific evidence to promote fossil fuel production is extremely troubling, and calls into question his willingness to fairly consider the facts if confirmed as a federal judge.

For these reasons, LCV strongly urges you to oppose the judicial nomination of Joshua Kindred to the United States District Court for the District of Alaska. We will consider including this confirmation vote in the 2020 *Scorecard*. If you need more information, please call my office at (202) 785-8683 and ask to speak with a member of our government relations team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene Karpinski".

Gene Karpinski
President



¹ Joshua Kindred, Moderator, *Not Your Grandfather's Environmentalism*, Alaska Oil and Gas Association, May 31, 2017. Available at <https://vimeo.com/221215684#t=77m30s> at 1:17:30 (Referring to his frustration with the “passionate ignorance” of environmental advocates).

² Joshua Kindred, Presenter, *Fish Habitat Imitative*, Alaska Oil & Gas Association 2018 Conference, May 31, 2018. Available at <https://afj.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Joshua-Kindred-SJQ-p511-522.pdf>.

³ Associated Press, *Possible public comment period on controversial Alaska fracking projects*, KTUU-TV, Jan 27, 2017. Available at <https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Possible-public-comment-period-on-controversial-Alaska-fracking-projects-411990375.html>.

⁴ Letter from Joshua Kindred to Environmental Protection Agency, *Re: EPA-HQ-QA-2017-0190 (82 FR 17793) Evaluation of Existing Regulations*, May 15, 2017. Available at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0190-56735>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Letter from Joshua Kindred to National Marine Fisheries Service, *Re: Comments of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association and the American Petroleum Institute regarding proposed rule to designate ringed seal critical habitat*, Mar. 31, 2015. Available at https://www.aoga.org/sites/default/files/news/03_31_15_aoga_comments_to_nmfs_on_ringed_seal_proposed_critical_habitat.pdf.

⁷ Letter from Joshua Kindred to Alaska Oil & Gas Conservation Commission, *Re: Proposed Amendment to 20 AAC 25.280(f)*, Dec. 22, 2016. Available at https://www.aoga.org/sites/default/files/news/12_22_16_aoga_comments_to_aogcc_on_proposed_amendment_to_20_aac_25.280f_hydraulic_fracturing_0.pdf.

⁸ Environmental Protection Agency, *Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas: Impacts from the Hydraulic Fracturing Water Cycle on Drinking Water Resources*, Dec. 13, 2016. Available at <https://www.epa.gov/hfstudy>.