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**Anti-Defamation League
Foundation**

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January 18, 2018

Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), we urge you to oppose the confirmation of Thomas Farr to be a U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Founded over a century ago to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure fair and just treatment to all, ADL advocates for the civil rights of all people and combats discrimination and hate across the country. Though ADL rarely weighs in on judicial nominations, we are deeply disturbed by the nomination of Thomas Farr and have serious doubts as to his qualifications for a lifetime appointment on the federal bench.

For decades, Mr. Farr has advocated to make it harder for African Americans to vote. Mr. Farr represented the Jesse Helms Senate Campaign in 1984 and 1990, defending the campaign after it was charged under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 with intimidating Black voters by sending postcards suggesting they were ineligible to vote, warning that they could be criminally prosecuted if they tried. Reports now indicate that Mr. Farr may have misled the Senate Judiciary Committee when he claimed to have only learned about the malicious postcards after the fact.

Mr. Farr has also advocated for one of the most racially discriminatory and undemocratic voter redistricting schemes in recent memory. In 2016, the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit found the North Carolina scheme supported by Mr. Farr to constitute intentional discrimination, calling it “the most restrictive voting law North Carolina has seen since the era of Jim Crow.” The law, the court found, “target[ed] African Americans with almost surgical precision.” Mr. Farr described this law as “sensible.” Based on this record, we agree with the Congressional Black Caucus’s conclusion regarding the nomination of Mr. Farr: “It is no exaggeration to say that had the White House deliberately sought to identify an attorney in North Carolina with a more hostile record on African-American voting rights . . . than Thomas Farr, it could hardly have done so.”

We are also deeply disturbed by Mr. Farr’s ties to the Pioneer Fund. The Anti-Defamation League regards the Pioneer Fund as an extremist organization that promotes and funds the study of eugenics and racist pseudo-science, especially studies that “prove” white people are more intelligent than other races. Mr. Farr has reportedly represented multiple organizations within a network tightly connected to the Pioneer Fund, and for years has worked closely with Thomas Ellis, a Pioneer Fund director, grantee, and close associate of the group’s president. Mr. Farr’s ties with an extremist, racist organization should be disqualifying, particularly given his record as an attorney working to disenfranchise African American voters.

ADL Community Support Center

Anti-Defamation League, 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158-3560 T 212.885.7700 www.adl.org

In ADL's view, the Senate's role in the nomination process is equally as important as the president's responsibility to nominate. For the above reasons, ADL urges you to reject the nomination of Thomas Farr to be a U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan A. Greenblatt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jonathan A. Greenblatt
CEO