



FRANCHISING®
Building local businesses,
one opportunity at a time.

March 30, 2017

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the members of the International Franchise Association (IFA), I write in support of the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to be a justice of the United States Supreme Court. The IFA is the world's oldest and largest organization representing the interests of franchising. IFA members include franchise companies in over 300 different business formats, including more than 17,000 local franchise business owners, 1,400 franchisors, and 700 companies supporting the industry. There are franchise businesses in every state in the country.

America's small businesses have created seventy-four percent of the jobs since the recession, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration. Local franchise business owners have led much of this growth, outpacing employment in all businesses for the last six years. These neighborhood small businesses are the guiding lights leading the way toward economic recovery. They create local ownership opportunities at a time when entrepreneurship rates are down generally. And, these small businesses offer a first and second rung on the career ladder for America's youth, creating vocational training and skills they can apply later in their careers.

Franchise businesses have continued to grow despite the regulatory challenges and uncertainty they have faced in recent years. Uncertainty in the law is never good for business, and it is particularly difficult for small businesses who do not have a team of lawyers or extensive staff to help them navigate the regulatory maze often created by government. If presented with a clear path forward, franchise small businesses could create even more opportunities and jobs in local communities. For this reason, our members believe we need nine justices on the Supreme Court to ensure important decisions do not end in 4-4 split decisions. The IFA also believes Judge Gorsuch demonstrated his respect for the separation of powers and the rule of law both during his tenure on the bench and at his confirmation hearing. These qualities are important to ensure regulatory overreach is limited and the actual text of the law is applied.

Judge Gorsuch's nomination has been praised by both Democrats and Republicans in the legal community and by those in Colorado who know him best. That praise is not surprising given he was confirmed by unanimous voice vote to the Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit a decade ago. The IFA urges senators to rise above the political rancor and vote "yes" on cloture and the confirmation of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the United States Supreme Court.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth H. Taylor
Chief Legal Officer and Chief of Staff
International Franchise Association