

BOB STUMP
30 DISTRICT, ARIZONA

211 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4576

DISTRICT OFFICE
5001 FEDERAL BUILDING
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85025
(602) 261-8923

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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COMMITTEE

September 9, 1981

Senator Strom Thurmond
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
2226 Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It is my pleasure to recommend to you Judge Sandra O'Connor, of the Arizona Court of Appeals, for confirmation as a Justice of the United States Supreme Court. She is eminently qualified for that position, both through intellect and disposition.

Judge O'Connor and I served together in the Arizona State Senate on opposite sides of the aisle. At one point, she was majority leader while I was minority leader. Perhaps adversaries have the best opportunity to appraise their opponents. Based on that experience, I can make the following observations.

She has a consistent and coherent conservative philosophy of government and of law. Her decisions are grounded in principle and her approach is precise, with attention to detail. The effect is that those who deal with her know where she stands.

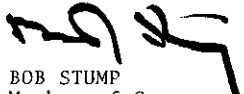
She is fair. The power of the majority can tempt some to take unfair advantage of their adversaries. As majority leader Judge O'Connor did not abuse that power. We were given the greatest possible latitude for making our case on any issue. The result was that all parties got a fair hearing in debate. I believe the quality of the laws enacted was improved.

Her attention to the details of statute drafting was such that no point of grammar or punctuation was too small to consider. She understood that failure to attend to such details often resulted in statutes that lacked clarity. She knew that imprecise statutes often lead Courts to substitute their policy judgement for that of the legislature. She believes very strongly that the legislature is the proper forum for policy debate and determination. Her sense of responsibility told her that anything less than the best legislative job was a potential abrogation of power to the Judiciary, which was unintended by the Constitution.

Her intellect is incisive. She is not led astray by irrelevancies. These qualities will help her decide which of today's many complex legal issues deserve the attention of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Chairman, you can expect Judge O'Connor to settle for no less than the best from our Courts. I suggest that we can ask no more than that. Judge O'Connor's record and reputation is her best recommendation, but I am happy to add my name to the long list of those who support her confirmation.

Sincerely,



BOB STUMP
Member of Congress

BS:bd

cc: Members of the Judiciary Committee

The CHAIRMAN. I have a letter from Senator Gordon Humphrey requesting that you answer certain questions. I would turn that over to the staff. If you could answer those by tomorrow it would be appreciated.

[Material follows:]