DATE: February 7, 2020
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

THE NAACP URGES THE U.S. SENATE TO OPPOSE THE CONFIRMATION OF ANDREW BRASHER TO THE 11TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

THE ISSUE:
President Trump has nominated Andrew Brasher to serve on the Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, which covers Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. The Eleventh Circuit presides over the highest percentage of African-American residents of any circuit in the United States. Mr. Brasher’s confirmation to this lifetime position is expected to come before the full Senate the week of February 10, 2020. The NAACP is strongly opposed to this nomination. Put simply, Mr. Brasher has demonstrated that he would put his extremist ideology ahead of judicial fairness in any decisions he made.

Andrew Brasher is currently a federal judge for the middle district of Alabama, a position he has held since May, 2019, and a confirmation that was strongly opposed by the NAACP. He was confirmed by a straight party-line vote of 52 yeas to 47 nays. Prior to his judgeship, he was a practicing attorney with a demonstrated extremist ideology which he promoted with vigor. He has a long record of working to undermine the civil rights of communities of color, particularly in the area of voting rights, and going to battle against the rights of women, workers, and the LGBTQ community. He actively sought opportunities to gut civil rights laws not only in Alabama but across the nation. He chose legal jobs which allowed him to aggressively press his agenda, such as filing amicus briefs in civil rights cases arising from states other than Alabama. Moreover, Mr. Brasher has extensive ties with far-right groups.

Mr. Brasher has shown himself to be an ardent foe of voting rights, the rights of women, workers, and the LGBTQ community. It is particularly appalling that Mr. Brasher has engaged in aggressive efforts to oppose political participation by communities of color. Given that the Eleventh Circuit presides over the highest percentage of African-American residents of any circuit in the United States, Mr. Brasher’s activism against political participation by all Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, or national origin is particularly offensive.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact both your Senators and URGE THEM TO OPPOSE THE NOMINATION OF ANDREW BRASHER TO THE 11TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS. To contact your Senators, you may:

✓ Make a Phone Call:
  Call your Senators in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators’ offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

Write a Letter
  To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
  The Honorable (name of Senator)
  U.S. Senate
  Washington, D.C. 20510

Send a Fax
  If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators’ offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ Send an E-Mail
  To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov and click on “Contact” under “Senators.” You can look up your Senators by name or state; go to their web sites to send an e-mail.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!!

THE MESSAGE

o Andrew Brasher has demonstrated an extremist ideology which he promotes with vigor;

o That he has been nominated to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, which presides over the highest percentage of African-American residents of any circuit in the United States, is particularly offensive;

o He has a long record of undermining the civil rights of communities of color, particularly in the area of voting rights and other forms of political participation by racial and ethnic minorities;

o Andrew Brasher is the wrong nominee for the wrong position.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

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To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org
(date)

The Honorable ___________________________
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.  20510

RE: MY STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE NOMINATION OF ANDREW BRASHER TO THE 11TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

Dear Senator _____________________________;

As your constituent, I strongly oppose the nomination of Andrew Basher to the 11th District Court of Appeals. The 11th Circuit covers Alabama, Florida, and Georgia and it presides over the highest percentage of African-American residents of any circuit in the United States. Given these high levels of racial and ethnic minorities, Mr. Brasher’s confirmation would be offensive to many, not to mention extremely harmful to the cause of voting rights for all.

Andrew Brasher has a long record of undermining the civil rights of communities of color, particularly in the area of voting rights, and has gone to battle against the rights of women, workers, and the LGBTQ community. He has affirmatively sought opportunities to undermine civil rights law not only in his home state of Alabama, but across the nation. He has chosen legal jobs which have allowed him to aggressively press his agenda, such as filing amicus briefs in civil rights cases arising from states other than Alabama.

The Senate must refuse to confirm Andrew Brasher. He is an extreme ideologue who threatens to undo decades of progress of civil rights. It is a travesty to think he would preside over African-American residents who depend on the federal courts to dispense equal justice under law. Mr. Brasher’s record is one of partiality and bias, rather than independence and fairness. No one filing a civil rights case in his court could have a reasonable expectation that the case would be judged based solely on the law and facts.

I again urge you to oppose this nomination. Please let me know what you have done and what I can do to continue to express my concerns.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)

Remember to contact BOTH your Senators.