



AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

**American Federation
of Labor and
Congress of Industrial
Organizations**

815 16th St., NW
Washington, DC 20006

202-637-5000

aflcio.org

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

RICHARD L. TRUMKA
PRESIDENT

ELIZABETH H. SHULER
SECRETARY-TREASURER

TEFERE A. GEBRE
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Sacco
Robert A. Scardelletti
Harold Schaitberger
Clyde Rivers
Cecil Roberts
Leo W. Gerard
Gregory J. Junemann
Nancy Wohlforth
RoseAnn DeMoro
Fred Redmond
Matthew Loeb
Randi Weingarten
Rogelio "Roy" A. Flores
Fredric V. Rolando
Diann Woodard
Newton B. Jones
D. Michael Langford
Baldemar Velasquez
James Boland
Bruce R. Smith
Lee A. Saunders
Terry O'Sullivan
Lawrence J. Hanley
Loretta Johnson
James Callahan
DeMaurice Smith
Sean McGarvey
J. David Cox
David Durkee
D. Taylor
Kenneth Rigmaiden
Stuart Appelbaum
Harold Daggett
Bhairavi Desai
Paul Rinaldi
Mark Dimondstein
Dennis D. Williams
Cindy Estrada
Capt. Timothy Canoll
Sara Nelson
Lori Pelletier
Marc Perrone
Jorge Ramirez
Eric Dean
Joseph Sellers Jr.
Christopher Shelton
Lonnie R. Stephenson
Richard Lanigan
Robert Martinez
Gabrielle Carteris
Mark McManus
Elissa McBride
John Samuelson

September 20, 2017

Chairman Charles Grassley
Ranking Member Diane Feinstein
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510-6050

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

The AFL-CIO urges you to oppose the nomination of Thomas Farr for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Mr. Farr's many years of practice reveal a deeply partisan record that is also anti-worker and anti-civil rights.

The AFL-CIO is very concerned about Mr. Farr's long record of anti-civil rights litigation. Mr. Farr represented the 1990 Campaign for Helms, which was charged by the U.S. Department of Justice with violating the Voting Rights Act. The complaint arose when the Senate campaign sent 125,000 postcards to primarily African American North Carolina voters suggesting they were ineligible to vote and threatened them with voter fraud if they tried to vote. The suit was settled out of court.

Mr. Farr has continued to zealously advocate anti-civil rights positions. He recently represented the Republican Party in its efforts to gerrymander the state to disenfranchise poor and black voters. He also defended the Republican Party's enactment of a law tailored to block African American voters from the polls with burdensome new identification requirements. Despite Mr. Farr's efforts, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit struck down the state's voter suppression law as racially discriminatory, observing that it "target[s] African Americans with almost surgical precision."

The AFL-CIO is troubled further by Mr. Farr's hostility to workers and working families. In Farr's early legal career, he served as staff attorney to the anti-union National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation. Mr. Farr has continued to promote that organization's values throughout his legal career. He sought to strike down a workers' compensation law to treat workers with asbestos-related illnesses equally to others injured on the job. Farr also represented a glass company that sued to block its workers from gathering information to protect their own health. He later represented a trucking company seeking to deny the

Letter to Chairman Charles Grassley & Ranking Member Diane Feinstein
September 20, 2017
Page Two

freedom of workers to organize a union. Farr also defended a waste industry company in its refusal to hire a woman driver, arguing the job was “too hard and too rough for a woman.”

Working Americans deserve an open-minded, unbiased and fair judge in the Eastern District of North Carolina. As is clear from his record, Mr. Farr is far from that. The AFL-CIO urges you to oppose Thomas Farr’s nomination to the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Samuel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

William Samuel
Government Affairs Director

WS/CC/lkr