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Subject: FW: Harkin.
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[CFJ Harkin press release.doc](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Sean Rushton [mailto:SRushton@CommitteeforJustice.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2003 10:19 AM
To: Miranda, Manuel (Frist)
Cc: Ledeen, Barbara (Republican-Conf)
Subject: Harkin.

FYI, this is the release we distributed yesterday in the middle of the Harkin press conference. Based on tongue clicking and sighs, I'd say the audience and staff were none too happy, though several journalists seemed appreciative.

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March 5, 2003
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Sen. Harkin Distorts Jeff Sutton's Record, Says Committee for Justice

Washington, D.C. — C. Boyden Gray, Chairman of the Committee for Justice, a group supporting the President's judicial nominees, today criticized Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) for urging his fellow Democrats to stall the nomination of one of the best lawyers in America, Sixth Circuit nominee Jeffrey S. Sutton, of Columbus, Ohio.

"Both as a government lawyer and in private practice, Jeff Sutton has skillfully represented clients from across the political spectrum," said Gray. "He defended a blind woman who was denied admission to a state medical school. He sued state colleges and universities for failing to give their disabled students voter-registration materials. He received a 'well-qualified' rating from the American Bar Association. And *The American Lawyer* named him one of the top 45 lawyers in the country under the age of 45."

"In 2000, Senator Harkin repeatedly called on his Senate colleagues to confirm Eighth Circuit nominee Bonnie Campbell—who is one of Jeff Sutton's strongest backers," Gray continued. "Now the shoe's on the other foot, and Senator Harkin wants Jeff Sutton to be treated as shabbily as he believes his protégé was treated."

Campbell is one of many Democrats to write in support of Jeff Sutton's nomination, describing him as "eminently qualified" and predicting that he "would be a great asset to the federal judiciary." "Having recent experience myself with the judicial confirmation process," she continued, "I strongly urge the Senate to reject any unfair inference that Mr. Sutton's personal views must coincide with positions he has advocated on behalf of clients. . . . I am confident that Mr. Sutton has the ability, temperament, and objectivity to be an excellent judge."

"There was a time when Bonnie Campbell's opinion carried great weight with Senator Harkin," Gray emphasized. On October 23, 2000, Senator Harkin said: "She has had a hearing. Let's bring her out for a vote; do the decent thing. Bring her out and vote it up or down. That's the decent thing."

"An up-or-down vote remains the 'decent thing' to do today—even for a candidate nominated by a Republican President," Gray concluded. "The Senate needs to confirm Jeff Sutton, and it needs to do so now. I call on Senator Harkin and all other Democrats to live up to the standards they set for Senate Republicans three years ago."

The Committee for Justice is a group created to support the president's judicial nominees. C. Boyden Gray is available for interviews on the Sutton nomination and other judicial questions at the number listed above.

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