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HATCH STATEMENT ON NOMINATION OF ELENA KAGAN TO SUPREME COURT

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), a former Chairman and current member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, issued the following statement today after President Obama nominated Elena Kagan to fill the upcoming Supreme Court vacancy:

“Now that the President has nominated Elena Kagan to replace Justice Stevens, the Senate must thoroughly and fairly evaluate her qualifications to be a Supreme Court Justice. Judicial qualifications go beyond legal experience; any Supreme Court nominee should have an impressive resume. The more important qualification is judicial philosophy and a nominee’s understanding of the power and proper role of a Justice in our system of government.

“I will examine Ms. Kagan’s entire record to understand her judicial philosophy. My conclusion will be based on evidence, not blind faith. Her previous confirmation, and my support for her in that position, do not by themselves establish either her qualifications for the Supreme Court or my obligation to support her. I have an open mind and look forward to actively participating in the confirmation process.”

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