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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-8275

KELLY L. DAVIS, Chief Counsel and Staff Director
KRISTINE J. LOCKS, Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director

September 30, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell:

I request to be notified before any unanimous consent agreement is agreed to regarding the nomination of Brian James Egan, of Maryland, to be Legal Advisor of the Department of State. This request is intended to be made publicly and will be disclosed in the Congressional Record so my name need not be withheld.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

Statement of Senator Charles E. Grassley
Before the United States Senate
September 30, 2015

Mr. President, I intend to object to any unanimous consent request at the present time relating to the nomination of Brian James Egan, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

I will object because the Department of State has failed to fully respond to almost a dozen outstanding letters dating back to 2013. In addition, on August 20, 2015, my staff met with Department officials in an effort to prioritize material for production. The Department has failed to comply with its commitments, producing material late, failing to provide all requested material, and even failing to provide material to the Senate Judiciary Committee contemporaneously with providing the same documents to Freedom of Information Act Requestors.

This past August, I warned the Department that if it failed to change its ways that I would be forced to escalate the scope of my intent to object to unanimous consent requests for Department nominees. Since then, the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman has joined me in requesting witness interviews of Department employees. Despite the Department's commitment to make witnesses available and assist in the identification of additional relevant witnesses, none of these interviews have actually been scheduled. The Department needs to respond in good faith to the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Thus far, it has primarily been promises with little or no follow-through. The Department's good faith will be measured in documents delivered and witnesses provided.

My objection is not intended to question the credentials of Mr. Egan in any way. However, the Department must recognize that it has an ongoing obligation to respond to Congressional inquiries in a timely and reasonable manner.

Chuck Grassley

I, Senator Charles E. Grassley,
intend to object to proceeding to
the nomination of Brian James Egan, of
Maryland, to be Legal Advisor of The Department
of State

dated 9/30/2015. I will
submit a copy of this notice to
the Legislative Clerk and the
Congressional Record within 2
session days and I give my
permission to the objecting
Senator to object in my name.

Chuck Grassley

-----To Be Completed by Legislative Clerk-----

Date Received by Legislative Clerk _____