Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 22, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell,

The tragic death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia on February 13, 2016 has not only left a vacancy on the bench of the nation's highest court, it has ushered in a time of great decision for you and the members of the Senate. The passing of this great scholar has shrouded America in mourning, and as one of the last originalists in our judicial branch, this vacancy will undoubtedly be extremely difficult to fill. The Senate is now faced with the Constitutional responsibility to confirm a potential successor – one armed with the highest integrity, exemplary character, and most noble commitment to the pursuit of justice within the confines of the limited powers prescribed to the judicial branch by our Constitution.

This is a time of great deliberation for our nation as culturally, we are facing an era of determining the legal basis of our greatest congressional priorities: civil rights, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, right to privacy, government responsibility, the balance of power, and the very right to life itself.

While some argue that this untimely vacancy creates a Constitutional crisis between the executive and legislative branches, we believe that our nation has already been in such a crisis, evidenced by frequent acts of executive overreach by the administration.

It is undeniable that the critical decisions facing our nation's highest court will have a lasting impact on future generations of Americans. And whereas Congress has made it a priority to reestablish the balance of Constitutional authority, we must not be rushed into this critical decision for political expediency, nor for the sake of the President's political legacy.

Therefore, we the undersigned stand with you in your commitment to postpone any confirmation of a Supreme Court Justice until after the inauguration of our next President. Your forethought to allow the nation to pause, assess, and elect a new President has rightfully given voice to the people, to whom we are responsible as elected officials.

Sincerely,

BARRY LOUDERMILK
Member of Congress

JEFF DUNCAN
Member of Congress

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