

March 28, 2017

The Honorable Susan Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Angus King  
133 Hart Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Collins and King:

**We are a group of Maine organizations and businesses, and we urge you to oppose Neil Gorsuch's nomination to the Supreme Court.** We represent advocates for women's rights, immigrant rights, LGBTQ rights, workers' rights, civil rights and the environment, among others. We care deeply about the future of the Supreme Court. After examining Judge Gorsuch's record, it is clear that he will side with powerful and wealthy corporate interests over the rights of everyday people, will not be an independent voice challenging abuses of power, and will undermine enforcement of our constitutional rights and laws.

Judge Gorsuch's judicial philosophy is clear. He has criticized those who go through the courts to ensure constitutional rights, like LGBTQ Americans who secured legal protections for the right to marry. In his own words he believes judges should interpret the law "focusing backward, not forward."

**As groups that represent thousands of Mainers, we urge Senator Collins and Senator King to take the time to thoroughly examine Neil Gorsuch's record, and ultimately reject his nomination for the Supreme Court. His record demonstrates that he:**

**Will side with big corporations over workers' rights.** Judge Gorsuch has denied claims of discrimination in the workforce and has demonstrated a clear disdain for workers' safety. He ruled against a professor at Kansas State University seeking to extend a six-month leave to avoid health risks from a campus flu epidemic after cancer treatment compromised her immune system. He sided with an employer that fired a trucker who, stuck outside in subzero temperatures, left his broken down trailer to seek help.

**Will undermine reproductive rights,** and clearly fulfills President Trump's campaign promise to nominate someone who will overturn *Roe v. Wade*. He has questioned the constitutional basis for a woman's right to choose to have an abortion, and as a judge he has limited access to reproductive care by, for example, joining the majority in *Hobby Lobby* which held that corporations were persons with religious rights that could deny employees contraceptive coverage.

**Will not protect our clean air and water and will undermine our ability to advocate for a healthier planet.** He stood against environmental groups like the Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, and WildEarth Guardians, by arguing they did not even have the right to participate in a case about protecting the Santa Fe National Forest. Furthermore, he supports a judicial philosophy that would undermine agencies' ability to enforce laws that keep our environment clean and communities safe.

**Will roll back the clock on LGBTQ rights and other issues we've worked so hard to achieve.** Judge Gorsuch has criticized LGBTQ Americans who have turned to federal courts to recognize equal rights like marriage equality. Additionally, his rationale for *Hobby Lobby*, that corporations are people and can claim religious beliefs, has been used to discriminate against LGBTQ people.

Supreme Court justices have the final say on cases that shape every facet of our daily lives, from landmark environmental protections to ensuring health care access and protecting our civil liberties. Neil Gorsuch's record demonstrates that he will not protect our rights as Americans or as Mainers.

**As groups dedicated to protecting these communities and issues in Maine, we urge Senators Collins and King to stand up for their constituents, thoroughly examine Neil Gorsuch's record, and reject his nomination for the Supreme Court.**

Sincerely,

Equality Maine

Sierra Club Maine

Maine NAACP

Maine Women's Lobby

Maine People's Alliance

The National Council of Jewish Women, Maine Section

RESTORE: The North Woods

Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine Chapter

Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

Planned Parenthood Maine Action Fund

Maine AFL-CIO

Mabel Wadsworth Center

New Ventures Maine

Maine Conservation Voters

Southern Maine Labor Council

Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Southern Maine Workers' Center