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June 4, 2008

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine
Governor of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Kaine:

The Virginia State Bar appreciates the opportunity for its Judicial Nominations Committee to review the qualifications of persons interested in the vacancy on the State Corporation Commission occasioned by Commissioner Morrison's retirement, and to provide you with evaluations of those candidates to assist you in making your appointment to the Commission.

Following notice of the vacancy in the *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* and the collection of extensive background information on each known candidate, the Judicial Nominations Committee conducted interviews with eight individuals on Tuesday, May 27, 2008. The committee's report and recommendations were reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee today.

Under the bar's policy, most recently revised in October 2007, the Judicial Nominations Committee is charged with evaluating the qualifications of each candidate and rating those found to possess the requisite experience, temperament, integrity and ability as either qualified or highly qualified. Each person's rating is also accompanied by an executive summary, prepared by the committee, which explains the basis for the rating.

At the conclusion of each interview, the committee members involved voted on whether the candidate was "qualified." At the conclusion of all the interviews, the committee discussed and voted on whether the qualified candidates were "highly qualified." Please be aware that, under the bar's new procedures, a majority of the committee members voting is required for a candidate to be designated as "qualified;" and a majority of those voting in a second vote is required for a candidate to be designated "highly qualified."

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine
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June 4, 2008

The Virginia State Bar submits the following names, listed alphabetically, of individuals found to be either "qualified" or "highly qualified":

Highly Qualified

Philip R. de Haas, Esquire
James C. Dimitri, Esquire
JoAnne L. Nolte, Esquire
The Honorable Michael D. Thomas

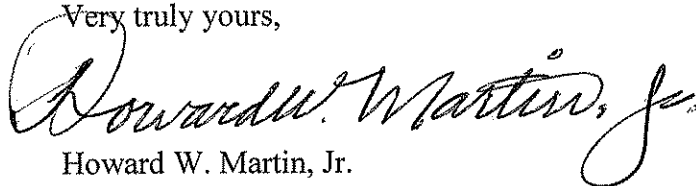
Qualified

Julia A. Lake, Esquire
The Honorable Richard D. Taylor, Jr.

The executive summary for each of these individuals is attached for your review and consideration.

Again, the Virginia State Bar is pleased to have this opportunity to participate in this appointment process.

Very truly yours,



Howard W. Martin, Jr.

HWMjr:vb

Enclosure

c: Philip R. de Haas, Esquire, (w/enc.)
James C. Dimitri, Esquire, (w/enc.)
Julia A. Lake, Esquire, (w/enc.)
JoAnne L. Nolte, Esquire, (w/enc.)
The Honorable Richard D. Taylor, Jr., (w/enc.)
The Honorable Michael D. Thomas, (w/enc.)
Brian J. Goodman, Esquire, (w/enc.)
Robert J. Ohneiser, Esquire, (w/enc.)
VSB Executive Committee (w/o enc.)
VSB Judicial Nominations Committee (w/o enc.)
VSB Senior Staff, (w/o enc.)

VIRGINIA STATE BAR
Committee on Judicial Nominations
Summary Report

June 3, 2008

Dear President Martin, Officers, and Members of the Executive Committee:

At the request of Governor Timothy M. Kaine, the Committee on Judicial Nominations met at the State Bar offices on Tuesday, May 27, 2008, to evaluate nominees for a vacancy on the State Corporation Commission of Virginia. The following Committee members participated:

Carter Glass IV, Chair
David W. Bouchard
Griffin T. Garnett, III
Sean P. Kelly
Daniel J. Meador, Jr.
Edwin C. Stone
Catherine Mary Reese
William T. Wilson

Two Committee members conducted an investigation of each candidate in advance of the meeting by interviewing lawyers and judges familiar with that individual. The Committee received the reports of each investigation and then interviewed each candidate. David W. Bouchard participated in the interviews of only four of the candidates. Other members of the Committee, not listed above, assisted with the background investigations, but were not able to attend the meeting. The candidates evaluated by the Committee included the following:

Philip R. de Haas, Esquire
James C. Dimitri, Esquire
Brian J. Goodman, Esquire
Julia A. Lake, Esquire
JoAnne L. Nolte, Esquire
Robert J. Ohneiser, Esquire
Honorable Richard D. Taylor, Jr.
Honorable Michael D. Thomas

An additional candidate, John M. Lamie, withdrew his name from consideration for this position and therefore was not evaluated.

Under the evaluation procedures approved by the Executive Committee in October 2007, a majority of the Committee members voting was required for a candidate to be designated as "qualified." A majority of those voting in a second vote was required for a candidate to be designated as "highly qualified."

June 3, 2008
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After receiving summaries of the background investigations and interviewing the candidates, the Committee made the following determinations, with names listed in alphabetical order:

Highly Qualified

Philip R. de Haas, Esquire
James C. Dimitri, Esquire
JoAnne L. Nolte, Esquire
Honorable Michael D. Thomas

Qualified

Julia A. Lake, Esquire
Honorable Richard D. Taylor, Jr.

No Finding

Brian J. Goodman, Esquire
Robert J. Ohneiser, Esquire

I attach executive summaries with regard to each candidate for whom a finding of qualified or highly qualified was made.

I look forward to meeting with all of you on June 4, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carter Glass IV, Chair

#1733968

Enclosures

cc: Committee Members

Report of the Virginia State Bar Judicial Nominations Committee

Philip R. de Haas

Seeks Appointment to: State Corporation Commission of Virginia

Education:

- University of Virginia, B.A., 1991
- George Washington University Law School, J.D., 1994

Legal Career:

- Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, Greensville, County and City of Emporia, 1994-1997
- State Corporation Commission, Office of the General Counsel Attorney, Associate General Counsel, 1997-2000
- State Corporation Commission, Counsel to the Commission, Business & Financial, 2000-present

Legal Association/Bar Committee/Community Organizations/Teaching Positions:

- Completed Virginia Executive Institute, management and leadership training for Virginia Government, 2002
- Completed Trial Advocacy Institute in Charlottesville, Virginia, 2000
- Served on Boards of Directors of non-profit entities

Legal Ability

The Committee concludes that Mr. de Haas has the requisite intellect and legal skills for the position of Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission.

Integrity

The Committee finds that Mr. de Haas has the highest integrity.

Temperament

The Committee finds that Mr. de Haas is temperamentally well suited for the position of Commissioner of the State Corporation and would exhibit an appropriate judicial temperament if appointed.

Impartiality

The Committee finds that Mr. de Haas lacks bias or prejudice for or against any individuals who would appear before him and would be able to act with impartiality as a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission.

Diligence

The Committee finds that Mr. de Haas could be expected to perform his duties as a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission with diligence and efficiency.

Overall Evaluation

Following three years as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, Mr. de Haas joined the office of the General Counsel of the State Corporation Commission in 1997. As an Attorney and then Associate General Counsel, he primarily advised the Property and Casualty Division of the Bureau of Insurance on insurance-related matters and collaborated with the Bureau's staff on rate, investigative, and administrative issues.

Beginning in 2000, Mr. de Haas was promoted to his present position as Counsel to the Commission and Counsel to the Commission-Business and Financial, where he advises the Commissioners on legal, administrative, legislative and other issues. He is the primary provider of advice and counsel in the areas of securities, insurance, financial institutions, and corporations, including the preparation of final orders disposing of contested financial services cases. Mr. de Haas has represented the Commission in cases before the Supreme Court of Virginia and federal courts.

The Committee's background investigation indicated that Mr. de Haas enjoys a good reputation among practitioners who specialize in regulatory matters before the Commission. He is perceived as very cooperative and helpful to other lawyers, although he aggressively defends his position in matters in which he is involved. He is viewed as very competent and bright, and based on his interview, the Committee is satisfied that Mr. de Haas possesses all the personal qualifications, including a suitable temperament, to perform the duties of a Commissioner.

The Committee observes that, in relationship to the three other candidates found to be highly qualified, Mr. de Haas has had fewer years of experience in handling matters before the State Corporation Commission and has had only minor involvement in the utility work (electric, gas, water, and telecommunications) of that body.

Committee Recommendation:

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

VOTE

QUALIFIED	Yeas 7	Nays 0
HIGHLY QUALIFIED	Yeas 4	Nays 3

Report of the Virginia State Bar Judicial Nominations Committee

James C. Dimitri

Seeks Appointment to: State Corporation Commission of Virginia

Education:

- University of Virginia, B.A., 1972
- Boston University School of Law, J.D., 1976

Legal Career:

- Neighborhood Legal Assistance, Inc., Charleston, South Carolina, Senior Staff Attorney, 1976-1980
- Virginia Poverty Law Center, Staff Attorney, 1980-1983
- Office of the Attorney General, Assistant Attorney General, 1983-1987
- Christian & Barton, Partner, 1993-1994, Associate, 1987-1992
- State Corporation Commission, Senior Counsel, 1994-1996, General Counsel, 1996-2000
- McGuireWoods LLP, Partner, 2000-present

Legal Association/Bar Committee/Community Organization/Teaching Positions:

- Current Member, Board of Governors, Administrative Law Section, Virginia State Bar
- 1992 - Chair, Board of Governors, Administrative Law Section, Virginia State Bar
- 1990-1991 - Member, Board of Governors, Administrative Law Section, Virginia State Bar
- Best Lawyers in America, 2007, 2008
- Meritorious Service Award - Recognition by Attorney General for productivity, initiative, and innovation, 1987

Legal Ability

The Committee concludes that Mr. Dimitri has superior intellect and legal skills for the position of Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission.

Integrity

The Committee finds that Mr. Dimitri has the highest integrity.

Temperament

The Committee finds that Mr. Dimitri is temperamentally well suited for the position of Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission and would exhibit an appropriate judicial temperament if appointed.

Impartiality

The Committee finds that Mr. Dimitri lacks bias or prejudice for or against any individuals who would appear before him and would be able to act with impartiality as a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission.

Diligence

The Committee finds that Mr. Dimitri could be expected to perform his duties as a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission with diligence and efficiency.

Overall Evaluation

After graduating from law school in 1976, Mr. Dimitri worked as a legal aid attorney for seven years, first in South Carolina and then at the Virginia Poverty Law Center in Richmond where, among other things, he represented low income clients before the State Corporation Commission in electric utility cases.

Beginning in 1983, Mr. Dimitri served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Virginia Attorney General, where he represented the interests of Virginia consumers in public utility and other cases before the State Corporation Commission and other bodies. He then entered private practice for seven years where he litigated and negotiated electric, gas, telecommunications, and road infrastructure matters before the State Corporation Commission and federal administrative agencies.

Beginning in 1994, Mr. Dimitri worked for six years in the Office of General Counsel of the State Corporation Commission. During the last four years of that period, held the position of General Counsel, in which he supervised the roughly 20 lawyers in that office. In 2000, he returned to private practice where he has represented utilities, cooperatives, and others before the State Corporation Commission, the North Carolina Utilities Commission, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, primarily in utility proceedings involving applications to construct generation and transmission facilities, rate setting, or restructuring and related policy matters.

With respect to the work of organized bar groups, Mr. Dimitri has been an active member of the Administrative Law Section of the Virginia State Bar, which he chaired at one time and which he is again serving as a member of the Board of Governors. He has also received recognition for his work, having been given a meritorious service award while at the Office of the Attorney General and having been listed in the *Best Lawyers in America* for the two most recent years.

The Committee's background investigation revealed that Mr. Dimitri is universally regarded as a superior candidate for a position as a Commissioner on the State Corporation Commission. Those interviewed stressed his strong analytical ability, excellent writing style, and even-handed temperament. Many emphasized that he would bring an unusually balanced perspective to the work of the Commission as a result of his representation, over a period of twenty-eight years, of all major parties affected by the work of that body – consumers of utility and other services, utility companies and other businesses regulated by the Commission, and the staff of the Commission itself. Based on the Committee's interview, Mr. Dimitri is articulate and an effective communicator, and his writing sample revealed that he is a highly skilled legal writer.

Committee Recommendation:

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

VOTE

QUALIFIED	Yeas 7	Nays 0
HIGHLY QUALIFIED	Yeas 7	Nays 0

#1732063

Report of the Virginia State Bar Judicial Nominations Committee

Julia A. Lake

Seeks Appointment to: State Corporation Commission of Virginia

Education:

- George Washington University, B.A., 1970
- Cumberland School of Law, Birmingham, Alabama, J.D., 1985

Legal Career: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

- Advisory Attorney, Office the General Counsel, Producer Regulation Division, 1985-1986
- Advisory Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Rulemaking and Environmental Law, 1986-1990
- Advisory Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, General and Administrative Law, 1990 to 2000
- Advisory Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Energy Markets, 2000-present

Legal Association/Bar/Committee/Organization/Teaching Positions:

- Member Virginia State Bar
- Energy Bar Association

Legal Ability

The Committee concludes that Ms. Lake has the requisite intellect and legal skills for the position of Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission of Virginia.

Integrity

The Committee finds that Ms. Lake has the highest integrity.

Temperament

The Committee finds that Ms. Lake is temperamentally well suited for the position of Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission and would exhibit an appropriate judicial temperament if appointed.

Impartiality

The Committee finds that Ms. Lake lacks bias or prejudice for or against any individuals who would appear before her and would be able to act with impartiality as a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission.

Diligence

The Committee finds that Ms. Lake could be expected to perform her duties as a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission with diligence and efficiency.

Overall Evaluation

Ms. Lake has been an Advisory Attorney for 23 years in the Office of the General Counsel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. During that period, she has worked in four different positions, all generally involving the federal regulation of utilities. Currently, as an Advisory Attorney in the Energy Markets division, she advises the Commission and its staff on legal, economic, financial, and technical issues, and on questions of law and policy related to Commission jurisdictional matters affecting the electric, natural gas, and oil pipeline energy markets. In a previous position, she advised as to administrative matters, including government procurement contracts, personnel actions, labor relations, and information resources management.

The Committee's background investigation revealed that Ms. Lake is viewed as a smart, creative, and competent lawyer, who is a hard worker. Notwithstanding her considerable expertise in the federal utility regulation field, the Committee observes that she has only limited knowledge of Virginia substantive law governing those matters within the jurisdiction of the State Corporation Commission. Also, she has had little or no regulatory experience in the fields of insurance, state-chartered financial institutions, securities, retail franchising, or railroads. The Committee also finds that most of her work has been as an advisor, and as a result, she has not had significant litigation and/or decision-making experience in utility regulatory cases.

Committee Recommendation:

QUALIFIED

VOTE

QUALIFIED

Yeas 5

Nays 3

Report of the Virginia State Bar Judicial Nominations Committee

JoAnne L. Nolte

Seeks Appointment to: State Corporation Commission of Virginia

Education:

- Randolph Macon College, B.A., 1976
- T.C. Williams School of Law, J.D., 1979

Legal Career:

- State Corporation Commission, Law Clerk, Attorney, Assistant General Counsel, 1979-1985
- National Card Control, Inc., Corporate Counsel, 1985-1989
- Royal Oak Underwriters, Inc., Co-Owner, 1989-1993
- DuretteBradshaw, formerly, Durette, Irvin & Bradshaw, Attorney, 1994-1999
- PennStuart, Shareowner, Attorney, 1999-2002
- The Conrad Firm, Shareowner, Attorney, 2002-present

Legal Association/Bar Committee/Community Organization/Teaching Positions:

- Member, Federal Energy Bar Association, Richmond Bar Association
- Member of the Section Council, Administrative Law Section, Virginia Bar Association, 2001-2004 and 2008-2011
- Member, Board of Governors, Administrative Law Section, Virginia State Bar, 2001-2005, Chair, 2004-2005
- Chartered Property & Casualty Underwriter
- Chartered Life Underwriter
- Certified Insurance Counselor
- Fellow, Life Management Institute
- Faculty for the Certified Insurance Counselor Program
- Member, NASD Dispute Resolution Board of Arbitrators
- Qualified as NASD Arbitration Chairperson through training in 2004

- Former Trustee and Past President, Virginia 4-H foundation
- Fan District Association Member
- Fan Women's Club Member
- Friends of Monroe Park Member

Legal Ability

The Committee concludes that Ms. Nolte has the requisite intellect and legal skills for the position of Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission.

Integrity

The Committee finds that Ms. Nolte has the highest integrity.

Temperament

The Committee finds that Ms. Nolte is temperamentally well suited for the position of Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission and would exhibit an appropriate judicial temperament if appointed.

Impartiality

The Committee finds that Ms. Nolte lacks bias or prejudice for or against any individuals who would appear before her and would be able to act with impartiality as a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission.

Diligence

The Committee finds that Ms. Nolte could be expected to perform her duties as a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission with diligence and efficiency.

Overall Evaluation

After graduation from law school in 1979, Ms. Nolte served for six years as an Assistant General Counsel at the State Corporation Commission, where she provided legal advice to the Commission staff with an emphasis in the areas of insurance, utilities, and securities. Thereafter, for eight years, she served as corporate counsel for National Card Control, Inc. and then founded and worked for a property and casualty insurance agency in Richmond.

Since 1993, Ms. Nolte has been in private practice, where she primarily has handled regulatory work before the State Corporation Commission and general business law. Her work before the Commission has included representation of businesses in corporate formation, insurance, banking, energy, financial, and blue sky security matters and limited representation of governmental bodies in energy and telecommunications matters.

With respect to work of the organized bar, Ms. Nolte has been active in the Administrative Law Section of the Virginia Bar Association, serving as a member of the Section Council on two

occasions. She has also served as a member of the Board of Governors of the Administrative Law Section of Virginia State Bar, with one term as the Section Chair. In addition, she currently serves as a member of the Multi-Jurisdictional Practice of Law Task Force of the Virginia State Bar. Ms. Nolte has received several awards recognizing her achievements in her practice area, including selection to the two most recent editions of *Best Lawyers in America* in the area of communications law.

The Committee's background investigation revealed that Ms. Nolte is consistently viewed as a very competent practitioner before the State Corporation Commission with experience in a wide variety of areas subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. A number of those interviewed emphasized her particular expertise in handling insurance issues. Ms. Nolte is viewed as having good writing skills and good analytical abilities, and based on her interview, she is articulate and an effective communicator.

Committee Recommendation:

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

VOTE

QUALIFIED	Yeas 8	Nays 0
HIGHLY QUALIFIED	Yeas 8	Nays 0

Report of the Virginia State Bar Judicial Nominations Committee

Judge Richard D. Taylor, Jr.

Seeks Appointment to: State Corporation Commission of Virginia

Education:

- Georgetown University, B.A., 1979
- Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., 1982

Legal Career:

- Hill, Tucker and Marsh, Associate Attorney, 1986-1989
- Office of the Governor, Deputy Counsel/Special Assistant for Policy, 1990-1993
- City of Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judge, 1993-2002
- Circuit Court of the City of Richmond, Circuit Court Judge, 2002-present

Legal Association/Bar Committees/Community Organizations/Teaching Positions:

- Chair, Education Committee of the Judicial Conference of Virginia, 2006-2008
- Member, Judicial Administration Committee of the Judicial Conference of Virginia 2005-2008
- Supervising Judge, University of Richmond Law School Clinical Placement Program, 2006 -
- Advisory Committee on Services for Non-English speakers in Virginia Courts, 2007
- Ex officio Member, Criminal Justice Services Board, 2007
- Member, Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, 2002
- Member, Board of Governors, Family Law Section, Virginia State Bar 2001-2002
- Member, Committee on Special Issues of National and State Importance, Virginia Bar Association, 2001-2002
- Member, Judicial Performance Evaluation Task Force, 2000-2001
- Member, Domestic Relations Section, Virginia Bar Association, 1999-2002

- Member, Board of Governors, Criminal Law Section, Virginia State Bar, 1996-2002
- Member, Board of Governors, General Practice Section, Virginia State Bar, 1999

Legal Ability

The Committee concludes that Judge Taylor has the requisite intellect and legal skills for the position of Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission.

Integrity

The Committee finds that Judge Taylor has the highest integrity.

Temperament

The Committee finds that Judge Taylor is temperamentally well suited for the position of Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission and would exhibit an appropriate judicial temperament if appointed.

Impartiality

The Committee finds that Judge Taylor lacks bias or prejudice for or against any individuals who would appear before him and would be able to act with impartiality as a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission.

Diligence

The Committee finds that Judge Taylor could be expected to perform his duties as a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission with diligence and efficiency.

Overall Evaluation

Before joining the bench, Judge Taylor engaged in a general practice with a law firm for three years, where he had a special emphasis on civil rights litigation, domestic relations cases, and the representation of a local college. Thereafter, he served for three years as Governor Wilder's Deputy Counsel and Special Assistant for Policy. Beginning in 1993, Judge Taylor served nine years on the City of Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, where he received high plaudits for leading a successful effort to reform the Court's procedures. Since 2002, Judge Taylor has served on the City of Richmond Circuit Court, where most of his case load has involved criminal matters.

Judge Taylor's extensive list of judicial, bar, and community activities is unmatched by any of the other applicants for this position, and his involvement in these organizations demonstrates his commitment to his work as a judge and to his community. Among other professional organizations, he has been active in the Judicial Conference of Virginia, the Virginia State Bar, the Criminal Justice Services Board, and the Virginia Bar Association. He has had a deep interest in legal education and is a frequent speaker at a wide variety of professional and community functions.

The Committee's background investigation revealed that Judge Taylor is uniformly regarded as an outstanding trial judge who demonstrates high aptitude and good temperament. He is known around the Circuit Court as the first Judge in and the last Judge out. He makes every effort to make all practitioners comfortable before him, yet he requires them to be prepared and courteous. During his interview with the Committee, Judge Taylor was a very effective communicator and displayed his dedication to the judicial system.

Based on his high level of legal competence and record of achievements, the Committee finds that Judge Taylor is qualified for the position of a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission. However, it cannot conclude that he is highly qualified for this position, because of his lack of experience in matters before the Commission and his limited exposure to the substantive and procedural laws governing matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Nonetheless, the Committee believes that Judge Taylor can master the learning curve required to make the transition from the Circuit Court to the specialized functions of the State Corporation Commission.

Committee Recommendation:

QUALIFIED

VOTE

QUALIFIED

Yeas 8

Nays 0

#1732478

Report of the Virginia State Bar Judicial Nominations Committee

Michael D. Thomas

Seeks Appointment to: State Corporation Commission of Virginia

Education:

- Virginia Military Institute, B.A., 1979
- T.C. Williams School of Law, J.D., 1986

Legal Career:

- Manufacturer's Packaging Company, Project Manager 1982-1983
- Hazel & Thomas, P.C., Research Assistant, 1984-1985
- State Corporation Commission, Law Clerk, Summer, 1985
- State Corporation Commission, Associate General Counsel, 1986-1997
- State Corporation Commission, Hearing Examiner, 1997-present

Legal Association/Bar Committee/Community Organizations/Teaching Positions:

- Member, Virginia State Bar, Richmond Bar Association, and the Virginia Association of Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers

Legal Ability

The Committee concludes that Mr. Thomas has the requisite intellect and legal skills for the position of a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission.

Integrity

The Committee finds that Mr. Thomas has the highest integrity.

Temperament

The Committee finds that Mr. Thomas is temperamentally well suited for the position of a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission and would exhibit an appropriate judicial temperament if appointed.

Impartiality

The Committee finds that Mr. Thomas lacks bias or prejudice for or against any individuals who would appear before him and would be able to act with impartiality as a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission.

Diligence

The Committee finds that Mr. Thomas could be expected to perform his duties as a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission with diligence and efficiency.

Overall Evaluation

Mr. Thomas has over twenty-two years of experience in working at the State Corporation Commission, beginning with his summer clerkship in 1985, followed by eleven years as Associate General Counsel to the Commission, and including eleven years in his current position as a Hearing Examiner for the Commission. In his role as Associate General Counsel to the Commission, Mr. Thomas' responsibilities included insurance market regulation, insurance company financial and solvency regulation, licensing regulation and compliance, insurance company taxation, prosecution of regulatory enforcement cases, and appeals to the Supreme Court of Virginia and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

As a Hearing Examiner for the Commission, Mr. Thomas conducts and presides over judicial and legislative hearings assigned to him by the Commission, and then prepares findings of fact and recommendations for the disposition of the case. Mr. Thomas has heard cases involving virtually all areas over which the Commission has authority, including the following examples: applications to build electric generating facilities and transmission lines; electric rate cases; water and sewer company rate cases; natural gas rate cases; applications to build natural gas storage facilities; a telecommunications area code numbering plan case; securities enforcement cases; and insurance receivership cases.

The Committee's review of Mr. Thomas' work as a Hearing Examiner revealed that he is extremely thorough, diligent, and thoughtful. Based on the Committee's background investigation, he is highly regarded by Commission practitioners, who described him as always well prepared, insightful, and very hard working, with an excellent temperament. Also, his interview demonstrated that he is both articulate and personable. The Committee concludes that, with over twenty-two years at the State Corporation Commission, during which he participated in almost every type of Commission case, Mr. Thomas is a very capable candidate for the position of a Commissioner.

Committee Recommendation:

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

VOTE

QUALIFIED Yeas 8 Nays 0

HIGHLY QUALIFIED Yeas 8 Nays 0