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Cheyenne, Wyo., April 6, 1910.

To the President:

Thoroughly appreciating the considerations of personal fitness which must influence the Executive in making an appointment to the exalted and responsible office of Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and having been personally and intimately acquainted with Hon. Willis Van Devanter for the last twenty-five years, I recommend him as eminently qualified for that office upon every consideration of character, attainment and experience, and respectfully invite a careful consideration of his name in connection with the existing vacancy.

Immediately before Judge Van Devanter entered upon his first judicial experience as Chief Justice of Wyoming Territory, he was my law partner, and during the period that our partnership relations had continued, as well as before that, I became keenly impressed with his natural aptitude for the law, the depth of his knowledge, and the fairness and accuracy of his judgment. Although he entered upon his judicial office at an age much younger than is usually the case, his peculiar qualification for the office was generally recognized by those who knew him, and he soon demonstrated his great ability as a judge in both the trial and appellate court, so that upon the admission of Wyoming as a State he was nominated and elected as one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the new State, and became its first Chief Justice. Not long after entering upon the duties of that office he resigned to again take up the practice of the law in this State, and continued in active and successful practice until he went to Washington to assume the duties of Assistant Attorney General of the United States for the Interior Department.

The numerous legal questions continually arising in the 8th Circuit, especially in the western portion of it, are of a nature making it most desirable that one otherwise adequately fitted for the office should be chosen from that section as a member of the Supreme Court of the United States, which is the court of last resort upon many of those questions; not merely for the purpose of having the section or the judicial circuit represented on that court, but that the court may have the assistance which would come from a knowledge and appreciation of those questions gained through years of personal training and actual observation of their importance and application.

It is my personal conviction that the appointment of Judge Van Devanter at this time would be highly appropriate in every way, and I am sure that none would receive greater public approval in the Rocky Mountain region. The earnestness of my recommendation is born of high personal conviction, a sincere interest in your administration, a high conception of the office named and a long acquaintance with Judge Van Devanter.

Very respectfully,

Charles N. Potter