

October 3, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

We write to express our support and your immediate assistance in confirming Charles “Cully” Stimson to become General Counsel of the Navy. Having worked with Cully in a variety of capacities over the years, we know that, if confirmed, he will carry out his duties as General Counsel with honor, skill, and distinction. While we hold diverse views on matters of national security and the law, we agree that Cully is superbly well-qualified to serve as the Navy’s chief legal officer.

He was nominated to the position on June 6, 2017, and has been waiting patiently for over 450 days to be confirmed.

Cully is a Navy Captain, having served over 25 years in uniform, on active duty and the reserves, stateside and overseas. A third-generation Navy officer, he has served with distinction in a variety of legal assignments, including as a Commanding Officer of a Navy reserve unit, as the Deputy Chief Judge of the Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary, as an instructor at the Naval Justice School, as a Joint Special Operations Task Force JAG, and other important billets. He knows the Navy legal system inside and out, and has earned a wonderful reputation among his colleagues. He also served his country in a civilian capacity as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, where he oversaw global detention policy for the Department of Defense.

We all know Cully as a leader in the national security law community. Through conferences, seminars, and discussion groups, he has brought together officials, scholars, and practitioners from across the political spectrum. In an area where issues are often divisive, he has worked to achieve consensus and mutual understanding. Many have benefitted from his expertise, his generosity, and his kindness.

Our Nation would be well served by Cully Stimson’s confirmation and service.

Sincerely,

John B. Bellinger III
Legal Adviser to the Department of State
Legal Adviser to the National Security Council

Professor Robert M. Chesney
University of Texas School of Law

Whit Cobb
Senior Vice President & General Counsel, PAE
Former Deputy General Counsel (Legal Counsel), DoD

Daniel J. Dell'Orto, Col, USA (ret.)
Former Department of Defense Principal Deputy General Counsel
Acting General Counsel 2008-2009

Andrew M. Grossman
Partner, Baker & Hostetler LLP

Frank Jimenez
21st General Counsel of the Navy

Lewis Libby
Senior Vice President, The Hudson Institute

Bill Lietzau
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Rule of Law and Detainee Policy

Michael B. Mukasey
Former U.S. Attorney General
Former U.S. District Judge

Matthew G. Olsen
Former Director of the National Counterterrorism Center

Benjamin A. Powell
General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Stephen Preston
Partner, Wilmer Hale
Former General Counsel DOD and CIA
General Counsel Department of the Navy

David B. Rivkin, Jr.
Partner, BakerHostetler, LLP
Served in the White House Counsel's Office and the Departments of Justice and Energy in the Reagan and George H.W. Bush Administrations

Nathan A. Sales
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Chad Sweet
CEO & Co-Founder, The Chertoff Group

Former Chief of Staff, DHS

Kenneth L. Wainstein

Former Homeland Security Advisor for President George W. Bush

Matthew Waxman

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense