



GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA

March 9, 2011

Dear Senator:

On behalf of over 300,000 members of Gun Owners of America, I am writing you to express our unequivocal opposition to the nomination of Caitlin Halligan to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Given Halligan's admitted involvement in New York's legally specious, politically motivated efforts to bankrupt gun manufacturers through frivolous litigation, Halligan has proven to us that she places liberal political activism above fealty to the law. It is inconceivable to us that such a partisan could be seriously considered for what has frequently been characterized as the nation's second-highest court. [See Halligan's speech on May 5, 2003, calling for "handgun manufacturers [to be held] liable for criminal acts committed with handguns" and her statement that such a lawsuit had been "filed by my office."]

Certainly, no other manufacturer could be held liable for the criminal misuse of its product. And, as Halligan well knows, the application of that principle to firearms would surely eliminate the manufacture of firearms in America. It is significant that a Washington-based anti-gun group openly took credit for coordinating anti-gun suits such as Halligan's.

But Halligan was not satisfied bringing a frivolous suit which was ultimately repudiated by a bipartisan vote in Congress.

First of all, Halligan mischaracterized legislation passed by Congress to put an end to frivolous lawsuits against gun manufacturers -- claiming, fraudulently, that the bill would "cut off at the pass any attempt by States to find [gun control] solutions through ... their own legislators..." [emphasis added]

Unfortunately, Congress's gun liability legislation did nothing to stop most anti-gun legislation in liberal states.

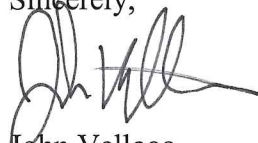
But, not to be deterred, Halligan's office signed a brief calling for New York courts to declare Congress' action "unconstitutional" for overstepping Congress' powers. This, at

a time when Halligan would no doubt hold that ObamaCare is constitutional because there are no effective limits on Congress' powers.

Finally, Halligan, in written testimony submitted to the Senate in connection with her nomination, attempted to conceal the extent of her anti-gun animus. As you well know, "fraud," for better or worse, is increasingly being defined to include the failure to provide information that would make a statement not misleading.

For these reasons, GOA urges the Senate to vote against the confirmation of Caitlan Halligan to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Velleco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Velleco
Director of Federal Affairs