

SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904
(202) 224-2523
(202) 224-2693 (FAX)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

November 13, 2012

COMMITTEES:
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,
RANKING MEMBER
ARMED SERVICES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
S-221 United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
S-230 United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders Reid and McConnell:

Now that the elections are behind us, I write to urge you to move forward expeditiously to schedule votes on non-controversial judicial nominees who have bipartisan support, in particular on the nomination of William Kayatta to be a Circuit Judge on the U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals.

Bill was nominated to fill a vacancy on the First Circuit on January 23, 2012. The ABA has rated him "unanimously well qualified," and he has my strong support as well as that of Senator Snowe. We spoke on his behalf at his nomination hearing on March 14, 2012, and on April 19, the Judiciary Committee favorably reported his nomination to the full Senate by voice vote.

The First Circuit bench is small – it has only six active judges – so any single vacancy hits it disproportionately hard. It now has the highest vacancy rate of any Circuit in the country.

Bill has a stellar record, the highest ABA rating, the full support of Maine's Republican Senate delegation, and was reported by the Judiciary Committee by a bipartisan voice vote. There should be no reason to delay a Senate vote on his nomination any further.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

