February 15, 2023

The Honorable Anne Carney, Senate Chair
The Honorable Matt Moonen, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Dear Senator Carney and Representative Moonen:

On behalf of the Maine State Bar Association and its members, I am pleased to inform you that the Association fully supports the nomination of Justice Paul A. Fritzsche to the Maine Superior Court as an Active Retired Justice.

The MSBA sends surveys to all practicing lawyers in Maine to evaluate trial court judges in the sixth year of every judge's term. These evaluations are used to determine the Association’s support of or opposition to the nomination of a judge and, in turn, to make recommendations on nomination to the Governor and the Judiciary Committee. The MSBA does not make recommendations on new appointees to the bench.

The results of Justice Fritzsche’s evaluation show that Maine lawyers find him to be decisive while still being compassionate, thoughtful, patient, and fair. He is described as a model jurist, a gentleman and a scholar, and a true treasure to Maine’s legal community. Attorneys who appear before Justice Fritzsche know that they and their clients will be treated with respect, and that the proceedings will be conducted thoroughly. These traits have earned Justice Fritzsche the support and respect of MSBA members, and Maine citizens will benefit from his continued service on the Bench.

The Maine State Bar Association urges the Judiciary Committee to give its unanimous support to the nomination of Justice Paul A. Fritzsche to the Maine Superior Court as an Active Retired Justice.

Sincerely,

Stacy O. Stitham
President