

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE  
**NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONFERENCE**

November 9, 2017

The Members of the United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

***Re: Opposition to the Nomination of Thomas Farr to the Federal Judiciary***

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate:

We, the undersigned North Carolina-based community leaders, write to express our strong opposition to the confirmation of Thomas Farr, who is now being considered for a lifetime judicial appointment to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Neither President Trump, nor the Senate, should reward Farr with this position, especially given his historical role in preventing access to the vote for North Carolina's citizens.

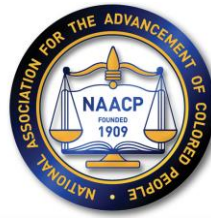
The role Farr played in defending the restrictive Monster Voter Suppression law (H589), passed by the N.C. General Assembly in 2013, is well-documented. But long before then, Farr had a well-established reputation as a key part of the political machine of the late Senator Jesse Helms, representing him in the 1990 campaign, even after witnessing the egregious racial appeals used in the 1984 Helms' campaign.

Indeed, as summarized by the Alliance for Justice [in its report on Farr](#), "it would be difficult to find an attorney in North Carolina whose career is more closely associated with attacks on the rights of vulnerable citizens." North Carolinians know this well. Farr has spent his entire legal career fighting for the anti-civil rights, anti-labor agenda developed and championed by Helms. Moreover, he was mentored by, and long-time law partners with, Thomas Ellis, Helms' chief deputy—a man who was the chief architect of Helms' despicable agenda and shared his unabashedly white supremacist views.<sup>1</sup>

Finally, this nomination is even more egregious and insulting given that the seat he would be occupying is based in the Eastern District of North Carolina, which covers an area of North

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<sup>1</sup> As background, the vast network of political entities created by Helms and his deputy Ellis took funding from the Pioneer Fund, a foundation that was created to advance Nazi ideas of the superior white race and primarily spent its dollars on eugenics research and advocacy to promote the notion of white superiority. Helms' chief deputy Thomas Ellis served on the Board of the Pioneer Fund and Thomas Farr later represented entities funded by Pioneer Fund.



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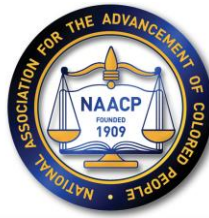
Carolina that is predominantly African American. This particular seat in the Eastern District of North Carolina is the longest vacancy in the federal judiciary because the two U.S. Republican Senators from North Carolina have refused to allow the nominations of two highly-qualified, well-respected African-American women candidates to come to a vote.

Farr's record makes clear that he will not be a neutral arbiter of the cases before him. African Americans seeking to have their rights protected under federal law have much to fear if he is to take the bench. Simply put, his record defending and promoting Helms' white supremacist agenda disqualifies him for the position of federal judge, and it is deeply troubling that he was chosen to be nominated to serve in this lifetime appointment.

We strongly urge you to vote against the confirmation of Thomas Farr as an Eastern District of North Carolina federal judge if the nomination is brought to the Senate floor for a vote. Please feel free to be in touch with Isela Gutiérrez (919-908-7918, [isela@democracy-nc.org](mailto:isela@democracy-nc.org)) if additional information is needed, or you have any questions about the undersigned organizations and leaders unwavering opposition to this nomination.

Sincerely,

Rev. T. Anthony Spearman, NC NAACP State Conference  
Bob Hall, Democracy North Carolina  
Wendy Haner, Association of American University Women – Asheville Branch  
Bob Phillips, Common Cause North Carolina  
Martin Eakes, Center for Community Self-Help  
Catherine Medlock-Walton, Working America NC  
Jennifer Copeland, North Carolina Council of Churches  
Charnessa Ridley, NC Women United  
Melissa Price Kromm, North Carolina Voters for Clean Elections  
Beth Maczka, YWCA Asheville  
Chavi Koneru, NC Asian Americans Together  
Tina Trutanich, North Star LGBTQ Community Center of Winston-Salem  
Kevin Rogers, Action NC  
Tara Romano, NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina  
Rev. Willard W. Bass, Institute for Dismantling Racism, Inc.  
Elizabeth M.T. O’Nan, Protect All Children’s Environment  
Ivanna Gonzalez, Raleigh Policy Accountability Community Taskforce  
Melvin Montford, North Carolina A. Philip Randolph Institute, Inc. and  
North Carolina A. Philip Randolph Institute Educational Fund



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Denicia Montford Williams, Bayard Rustin LGBTQ of NCAPRI  
Karin Binkley, Parkway United Church of Christ Justice Team  
Mike Calhoun, Center for Responsible Lending  
Faith Crosby, Indivisible Forsyth  
Heather Redding, Hillsborough Progressives Taking Action  
P. Gail Young, Citizens in Action NC  
Naomi Lambert and Dana Jennings, Politica NC  
Lauren Essick, Appalachian Voices  
Michael Eisenberg, Everyone's NC Coalition  
Jennifer Rudolph, Stronger NC  
Kelly Garvy, Protecting Progress in Durham