

July 15, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Durbin, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

We write to you with deep alarm and a shared commitment to protecting the rule of law and Constitutional rights from government overreach. The nomination of Emil Joseph Bove, III to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit threatens the foundational principles of judicial impartiality and the rule of law. It is also a slap in the face to law enforcement. Our coalition spans ideological lines, united in the belief that a lifetime judicial appointment must be reserved for those who demonstrate respect for the Constitution and a record of ethical conduct.

Mr. Bove would represent a sharp departure from these principles. His record is defined by a dangerous disregard for legal norms.

As reported by the [New York Times](#), a Department of Justice whistleblower revealed that Bove told subordinates that they might need to ignore court orders, allegedly saying that the posture of the executive branch should be 'f--- you if the judiciary did not grant their preferred outcome.' Other [widely confirmed reports](#) show Mr. Bove encouraged DOJ officials to proceed with deportations regardless of judicial injunctions.

As Acting Deputy Attorney General, Bove [personally intervened](#) to dismiss corruption charges against New York City Mayor Eric Adams, a decision he admitted was made without reviewing the evidence—an unprecedented and deeply politicized move. This [led to the resignation](#) of over 10 senior DOJ officials, including the acting U.S. Attorney for SDNY. The Washington Post and American Oversight documented the backlash in ethics complaints that followed.

Bove also [led the purge](#) of FBI agents and DOJ attorneys involved in the investigation of over 1500 individuals who brutally beat Capitol Police officers and defaced the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021. He [targeted career prosecutors](#) for perceived political disloyalty—undermining the impartial enforcement of justice during one of the most serious assaults on our democratic institutions in American history.

Mr. Bove's troubling behavior is not new. While serving as a federal prosecutor, he was [described by colleagues](#) as 'reckless,' 'abusive,' and in need of 'adult supervision.'"

Mr. Bove's record is pockmarked with a years-long pattern of abusing law enforcement officers and flouting ethics.

These appalling examples have been all thoroughly reported, and they are not isolated or exhaustive. Each of these alone should be disqualifying for an individual seeking to serve a lifetime appointment as a federal judge. All of them together makes the case against Mr. Bove overwhelming.

Congress has a sworn duty to serve as a vital check on the power of the executive. We write today not because we disagree with President Trump's politics. Or because we seek a political "win" by seeing one of his nominees fail to be confirmed. Or because we fear we might disagree with decisions a potential Judge Bove could make in the future.

We write today because Mr. Bove has demonstrated that every time he's put in a position of authority, he abuses it. Every opportunity to uphold the Constitution has been met with decisions that serve his political goals over legal principles. His record is not one of missteps—it is a pattern of disqualifying conduct.

Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Durbin: With power granted to you by Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution, we urge you to reject Emil Joseph Bove, III's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Our democracy depends on judges who will defend the rule of law. Mr. Bove's record is clear – he will not.

Sincerely,

Democracy Defenders Action

People for the American Way

Accountable.US/Accountable.NOW

AFT

Alliance for Justice

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Oversight

American Values Alliance

Center for American Progress (CAP) Action Fund

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Demand Justice

Demand Progress

Earthjustice Action

Fair and Just Prosecution

Feminist Majority Foundation

FFRF Action Fund

Fourth Branch Action

Human Rights Campaign

Just Solutions

Lawyers for Good Government

League of Conservation Voters

Media and Democracy Project

National Association of Consumer Advocates

National Council of Jewish Women

National Education Association

Natural Resources Defense Council

People Power United

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Stand Up America

The Communications Workers of America (CWA)

The Workers Circle