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## **FLOOR STATEMENT ON NOMINATION OF U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE JOSEPH GREENAWAY**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D – NJ) delivered the following floor statement to decry the obstruction of U.S. District Court Judge Joseph Greenaway’s nomination to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals:

“Mr. President,

“I rise to highlight the latest obstructionism by the Party of No on the other side of the aisle.

“Today’s target: Judge Joseph Greenaway of New Jersey.

“The son of a nurse and a carpenter who rose from humble beginnings to attend Columbia University and Harvard Law School, Joseph Greenaway is a well-qualified judge who has served on our District Court for over a decade.

“His credentials and qualifications are beyond reproach – and there is no opposition to his nomination to the Third Circuit Court.

“Yet Republicans blocked a vote on his confirmation tonight.

“This man and our country deserve better.

“Mr. President, some of us in this Chamber came to Congress to move the country forward, to solve problems and get things done.

“Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues have a much different agenda.

“They are focused on bringing this chamber to a standstill.

“They are focused on delaying and stopping progress on nearly every issue.

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“The filibuster used to be reserved for only the most controversial issues, and was meant to allow enough time for debate.

“Now it is being abused – hijacked by Republicans who are more interested in political and procedural games than in legislating.

“Republicans have used the filibuster over a hundred times since the start of this Congress.

“They have used it to block legislation – including health care reform, funding for our troops, and even help for our veterans.

“And they are using it to block well-qualified judges from serving on the federal bench.

“Republican obstructionism last year led to the lowest number of judicial confirmations in more than 50 years.

“Republicans sit on their hands and block the Senate from considering qualified nominees for months on end.

“Last week, we finally had a vote on the confirmation of Beverly Martin to serve on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

“Judge Martin was unanimously supported in the Judiciary Committee and then forced to wait over four months on the Senate calendar for no good reason.

“And what was the final vote on her confirmation, Mr. President?

“Ninety-seven to zero.

“No opposition. Not a single dissenter.

“And today we are once again witnessing a judge being caught in the crosshairs of the Party of No.

“Judge Greenaway was nominated to serve on the Third Circuit and voted unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee.

“Yet his nomination has languished for nearly four months.

“This is unreasonable – Judge Greenaway is a dedicated public servant and will be an excellent addition to the bench.

“Judge Greenaway became an Assistant United States Attorney in Newark in 1985.

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“He distinguished himself prosecuting bank fraud and white-collar crime cases before being picked to head the narcotics division.

“Since 1996, Judge Greenaway has served on the U.S. District Court in Newark.

“In his tenure, he has demonstrated his firm commitment to the values we want to see in our judges – fairness, equity, justice.

“These are the same values that will make him a success on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

“Judge Greenaway has spent his career protecting New Jerseyans—and their rights.

“That’s why the American Bar Association rated him ‘unanimously well qualified’ for this position.

“And that’s why the United States Senate should confirm him without further delay.

“The Third Circuit court has a vacancy that needs to be filled. And there is a non-controversial, well-qualified judge waiting to serve.

“I call on my friends on the other side of the aisle to stop their obstructionism and let this vote move forward.

“Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.”

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