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March 18, 2016

Senator Larry A. Martin, Chairman
101 Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Re: Reappointment of Susan S. Barden to the SC Workers' Compensation Commission

Dear Senator Martin:

I am writing this letter in support of Susan S. Barden's reappointment to the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission.

I have been a practicing attorney for nineteen (19) years and began practicing workers' compensation in 2005, shortly after Susan Barden was initially appointed to the Commission.

I have argued hundreds of cases before the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission. In many of these cases, Commissioner Barden has either served as a Single Commissioner or part of the Appellate Panel. Commissioner Barden's decisions have always been rational and based on the facts and evidence in the record. Her knowledge of the workers' compensation laws and her judicial temperament are stellar. She has never shown any favoritism towards an attorney and has gone out of her way to make all parties and their attorneys feel that she was giving equal attention to the facts presented by both sides. Her sense of judicial independence is refreshing. She is not afraid to disagree with her colleagues and has written dissenting opinions when she disagrees with a majority opinion.

Commissioner Barden is always punctual for her hearings and renders timely decisions in her cases. In fact, I cannot recall a time when I had to wait more than thirty (30) days for a decision. Sometimes, she would have a decision within days of a hearing. While I do not always agree with Commissioner Barden's decisions, they are always detailed, and often citing twenty (20) or more findings in support, which makes the basis for her decisions abundantly clear to all parties.

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When I started my own practice in 2012, I began representing claimants and have had an opportunity to view Commissioner Barden's temperament and demeanor from both ends of the workers' compensation prism. Again, her decisions are detailed, reasoned, unbiased and fair.

It is my sincere hope that you reappoint her to the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission.

Sincerely,



Latonya Dilligard Edwards

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