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January 10, 2017

The Honorable Bob Corker
Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Corker,

The United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations is scheduled to consider the nomination of Rex Tillerson for Secretary of State this week. Log Cabin Republicans, the country's original and largest organization of LGBT conservatives and straight allies, strongly encourages his confirmation.

Voices of opposition have arisen against Mr. Tillerson since his nomination, many disparaging his record on issues related to LGBT equality. These criticisms completely overlook—in many cases willfully—the sensitivity and sympathy Mr. Tillerson has demonstrated throughout his career in regard to cultural issues.

As the CEO of ExxonMobil, Mr. Tillerson oversaw the implementation of a fully inclusive non-discrimination policy that acknowledged both sexual orientation and gender identity, transforming a corporation that once had no such protections to one that reflected the sensibility of 71% of Americans who believe policy preventing discrimination against members of the LGBT community is right (*Public Religion Research Institute, 2016*).

As a national leader of the Boy Scouts of America, Mr. Tillerson advocated that the organization accept openly gay scouts as members. His advocacy was quiet, dignified, and respectful of passionate views on all sides of the controversial issue.

In his speech immediately following the vote that changed the aforementioned Boy Scouts policy, Tillerson boldly declared that “the reality is there are neither winners nor losers” in cultural wars; “what is left after we make the decision to change is the mission.”

This brand of compassionate diplomacy is what makes Mr. Tillerson an excellent candidate for Secretary of State, and why Log Cabin Republicans supports his confirmation.

Gregory T. Angelo
President

cc: United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations members