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Chairperson
NRA Nominating Committee
C/O John C. Frazer, NRA Secretary
National Rifle Association of America, Inc. **VIA EMAIL**
11250 Waples Mill Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
John.frazer@nrahq.org

**RE: Nomination of John Charles Sigler, NRA Past President, to NRA Board of Directors
 NRA Benefactor # [REDACTED]**

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please accept this letter as my recommendation to you as the Chair, and to the NRA Nominating Committee as a whole, that you place the name of my good friend, John C. Sigler, into nomination for election by the Members to the NRA Board of Directors in the 2025 Board Election cycle. In support of my recommendation, I respectfully offer the following information for your consideration.

I have known John Sigler since he was admitted to the Delaware Bar in 1987 and our two firms merged. He and I have practiced law together at various times throughout our careers since that time. We are very good friends.

I had the honor of serving in the Delaware House of Representatives for three terms. During that time, I enjoyed the privilege of serving as the House Majority Whip for two of those terms. John was my campaign Treasurer and helped to run all three of my campaigns. I was honored to be rated by NRA-ILA as "A+." I was also honored to be awarded the NRA-ILA Defender of Freedom Award. I am a proud Life Member of the National Rifle Association of America.

I left the Delaware House of Representatives after three very successful terms to become a Judge of the Delaware Court of Common Pleas. While a judge, I had the privilege of serving as a presenter for the NRA Foundation's National Firearms Law Seminar. I retired from the bench several years ago and returned to private practice in the same firm in which John was then practicing. We practiced law together until I left to become a candidate for Attorney General.

For as long as I have known John, he has always been a devoted and steadfast defender of the Second Amendment and our God-given right as honest law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes. While I am sure there are many who can rightfully claim the same level of devotion to the Second Amendment, I am also sure there are very few who have actually put their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of their family in jeopardy in defense of the Second Amendment – John has. Please allow me to share that story with you.

At the time, John Sigler was an active-duty Captain with the City of Dover Police Department here in Delaware with a part-time law practice on the side. Governor Mike Castle had proposed a bill that would have banned so-called “assault weapons” in Delaware. That bill was the first of its kind in this State. There have been many others since then.

That assault weapons ban bill was scheduled for a hearing before the House Public Safety Committee. Delaware’s Governor had tasked his Secretary of Public Safety with ramrodding that bill through the General Assembly. Local opposition to that bill was, of course, widespread and the Secretary was pulling out all stops in his attempt to get that bill through committee. He had requested that all the major police departments send high-ranking representatives to testify in favor of the bill.

John was both the Chief Legal Officer and the Administrative Division Commander for the City of Dover Police Department when the request came. His commanding officer, the Deputy Chief of Police, ordered John to respond to Legislative Hall and to testify in favor of the bill, informing John that the order was coming directly from the Chief of Police.

John advised his commander that he could not and would not testify in favor of the bill. Nevertheless, he was ordered to attend the hearing and to testify with the warning from the Deputy Chief that his career was on the line.

Captain Sigler obeyed the order to attend, but when called upon to testify he defied the order to support the bill and, instead, John testified truthfully and honestly in opposition to the bill, pointing out both its technical flaws and its constitutional infirmities. Not only did John’s testimony come as a complete surprise to the Governor and his Secretary of Public Safety, but also to the one hundred or so NRA members in attendance who gave John a standing ovation from the Gallery. That bill died in committee that night.

John returned home that night and informed his wife, Ingrid, that his police career was over. He expected to be fired the next day for insubordination. He advised her that he would be going into the fulltime practice of law without the benefit of his police pension. To her credit, Ingrid supported John’s decision.

Luckily, when questioned by the Chief of Police the next day about the fact that he had defied a direct order from the Deputy Chief, John was able to convince the Chief of the righteousness of his act of defiance, the deficiencies of the bill, and the fact that he was ethically bound to testify honestly. The Chief ultimately agreed and John went on to eventually retire sometime later as previously planned.

As stated before, John and I are very good friends. Without breaking confidences, suffice it to say that John has on many occasions confided in me his various concerns with regard to the NRA, often seeking guidance and direction, sometimes even going so far as to invoke the attorney-client privilege. Although John never shared specifics, he often confided that he sometimes felt he was a lone voice crying in the wilderness.

John has devoted much of his life to the NRA. To say that he loves the NRA would probably be an understatement. To say that he fears for the future of the NRA would be another understatement. He has served on the NRA Board for 28 years and was an active volunteer for many years before joining the Board.

I think we all agree that the NRA is experiencing a time of crisis and a time of change. I can think of no one more loyal to the NRA than John, nor can I think of anyone more qualified to provide institutional knowledge and help guide the NRA through these troubled times.

I ask that you please accept this letter in the spirit in which it is offered. I respectfully recommend that the NRA Nominating Committee place the name of John C. Sigler before the members for their consideration in the 2025 NRA Board elections.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,




Charles W. Welch, III
NRA Life Member 