

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Introducing Magistrate Judge Lonny R. Suko,
Nominated to be United States District Judge
for the Eastern District of Washington

Rep. George R. Nethercutt, Jr.
June 25, 2003

Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity to address the Senate Judiciary Committee to introduce United States Magistrate Judge Lonny R. Suko. Magistrate Suko is the President's nominee to fill a vacancy in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington.

Magistrate Suko has been a Magistrate Judge since 1995, when he was chosen from among a panel of finalists by a unanimous vote of all United States District Judges for the Eastern District of Washington. In that time, he has earned high marks and the respect of his peers, his staff, his superiors, and nearly all those who have passed through his courtroom. I have heard nothing but glowing reports of Magistrate Suko, and he has certainly earned my respect and endorsement. His confidence, humility and impartiality in his current position make him an exemplary candidate for U.S. District Court Judge.

While the selection commission was interviewing and vetting applicants for this U.S. District Court position, I received dozens of letters of support for Magistrate Suko from throughout Washington State. Words such as "compassionate," "sincere," "well-respected," and "intelligent" pervade these letters. It is abundantly apparent from these letters that Magistrate Suko's integrity transcends his personal and professional life.

The selection commission was charged with the daunting task of selecting the most well-qualified candidates to recommend to the President for nomination, and it is my opinion that they have succeeded admirably. I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Magistrate Suko.

Again, Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity, and for holding this hearing on the nomination of Magistrate Suko. I urge this Committee to - and am confident that it will - quickly and favorably report his nomination to the full Senate for eventual confirmation.