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December 27, 2024

Scott Harris, Clerk
Supreme Court of the United States
1 First St., NE
Washington, D.C. 20543

Re: Rule 20.3(b) letter in *In re Nawaz Ahmed*, No. 24-5641

Dear Mr. Harris:

Rule 20.3(b) allows respondents in mandamus and prohibition proceedings to “advise the Clerk and all other parties by letter” if they do “not wish to respond to the petition.” The rule does not create an exception for capital cases, and so States may decline to respond even in matters, like this one, initiated by a death-row inmate.

Respondent Bill Cool is submitting this letter in accordance with Rule 20.3(b). Please note that the caption has been changed to reflect Warden Bill Cool as the current warden. Ahmed’s petition seems to raise the same issues presented in his petition for certiorari. *See Ahmed v. Shoop*, 24-5642. Cool has filed a Brief in Opposition in that case. Because any briefing in this case would be largely duplicative, Cool does not plan to file a response unless asked to do so.

Respectfully yours,

Dave Yost
Attorney General of Ohio

/s/ Michael J. Hendershot

Michael J. Hendershot
Ohio Chief Deputy Solicitor General

cc: Nawaz Ahmed, *Pro Se* Petitioner