PRESENTATION OF SAMUEL A. ALITO, JR., OF NEW JERSEY, NOMINEE TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, BY HON. FRANK LAUTENBERG, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Senator LAUTENBERG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Senator Leahy, colleagues on this Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. John Corzine, U.S. Senator, and now Governor-elect in New Jersey, wanted to be here, but transition duties in Trenton prevent him from doing so.

Now, I have been honored to serve in the U.S. Senate for 21 years, and I am convinced that our duty to provide advice and consent for Justices of the Supreme Court is our most important constitutional responsibility. Our mandate is to be a Nation of laws, and the Supreme Court is the place where we look to safeguard our civil rights and our individual liberties.

But I believe that Justices must recognize that our Constitution is an 18th century document that needs to be applied in the context of the 21st century. We also depend on the Supreme Court to uphold the integrity of our Government. So I am privileged to have the opportunity to introduce Sam Alito, Jr., to this Committee, and his beautiful family that he brought along to fortify his candidacy.

Judge Alito was born and raised in the great State of New Jersey. Our State has a legacy of producing outstanding jurists, most notably the late William J. Brennan, who ushered in our Nation's re-commitment to civil rights in the latter half of the 20th century. Another distinguished jurist, Justice Antonin Scalia, also was born in New Jersey.

In 1950, Sam Alito was born in our State's capital city, Trenton, New Jersey, to a family of worthy achievement. Judge Alito's father—I am moving too quickly here—Judge Alito's father was an immigrant from Italy who taught history in high school and later ran the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services, which is similar to our own congressional Research Service, in that it provides objective, unbiased information to the legislature. Judge Alito's mother was a librarian, teacher and school principal, and she is now 91 and still, as I understand it, residing in the family home in Hamilton, New Jersey.

From his parents, Judge Alito learned the importance of education and integrity. Judge Alito and his sister went to public school in Hamilton, New Jersey, where they both joined the debating team. It seemed like the debating experience paid off, as both he and his sister have excelled in the legal profession.

Sam Alito then went on to Princeton University, where his yearbook entry predicted that one day he would warm a seat on the Supreme Court. He graduated from Yale School in 1975, and then served as a clerk for Circuit Court Judge Leonard Garth, with whom he currently serves.

In 1977, Sam Alito joined the U.S. Attorney's office in Newark, where he met his future wife, Martha, who is present here today. They later moved to Washington, where Sam Alito served as an assistant to the Solicitor General and later in the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel.

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In 1987, Judge Alito returned home to New Jersey after President Reagan appointed him U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey. He was a strong prosecutor, and nobody was surprised when President George H.W. Bush appointed him to the Third Circuit Court in 1990, and I had the privilege of introducing him then as well.

Judge Alito's accomplishments in life are the embodiment of the American dream. I am honored today to introduce him to the Committee. He is a young man. If the Senate confirms him for a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court, he could serve for three decades, or even longer, especially judging it from my point of view. His decisions would affect our rights, the rights of our children, our grandchildren, and other future generations.

Mr. Chairman, you know well it is the job of this Committee to evaluate Judge Alito's qualifications and fitness for the Court, including his views on legal issues. And I know every member of the Committee takes that obligation seriously, and I trust that Judge Alito will be forthcoming and cooperative in this process. I have had a chance to meet him. I know that he responded to the questions that I put to him. Maybe they were too easy, but he responded very well to them.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here with our former Governor, Christie Whitman, and we haven't sat at a table together for a long time, but it is a good opportunity to do so.

Thank you.

Chairman SPECTER. Senator Lautenberg, do you care to make a recommendation on the nominee?

Senator LAUTENBERG. I care to present the evidence, just the evidence, Mr. Chairman, and we will let the record speak for itself.

Chairman SPECTER. Our next presenter is Governor Whitman, distinguished two-term Governor for the State of New Jersey, and in the Cabinet of President Bush as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

We welcome you here, Governor Whitman, and look forward to your testimony.

PRESENTATION OF SAMUEL A. ALITO, JR., OF NEW JERSEY, NOMINEE TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, BY CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN, FORMER GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY, AND FORMER ADMINISTRATOR, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Governor WHITMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a pleasure to be here today with Senator Lautenberg to introduce Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr., and I do urge your support for his nomination to the Supreme Court.

I won't go into his family background. Senator Lautenberg has done that—save to mention one member of the family that he didn't, which is that the Judge's sister, Rosemary, is a nationally recognized employment attorney and someone who is recognized as part of a family that has devoted itself to public service and continues to do that.