January 9, 2006

Hon. Arlen Specter
Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Supreme Court Nominee Samuel Alito

Dear Senator Specter and Senator Leahy:

I am writing on behalf of People For the American Way and our more than 750,000 members and other supporters nationwide in opposition to the confirmation of Judge Samuel Alito to the United States Supreme Court. For the reasons discussed in detail in our comprehensive report of January 2006 analyzing Judge Alito's long public record, Judge Alito's confirmation would jeopardize Americans' fundamental rights and legal protections and provide a consistent vote to turn back the clock on decades of social justice progress in this country.[1] This is particularly the case since Judge Alito has been nominated to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a mainstream conservative whose swing vote on a closely divided Court has often served to preserve and protect equality and justice.

Specifically, Judge Alito's confirmation would move the Supreme Court decisively to the right in numerous areas critical to the protection of the rights and interests that Americans hold dear, including civil rights and civil liberties, reproductive freedom, and freedom of conscience. His confirmation would seriously threaten the ability of Congress to enact and enforce laws that protect the environment, that prohibit discrimination, and that otherwise promote the health, safety, and welfare of all Americans. And because Judge Alito has a record of deference to presidential and executive power, his confirmation would pose a significant danger to the checks and balances that the Framers wisely crafted into our constitutional system of government.

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1 A copy of our report, *The Record and Legal Philosophy of Samuel Alito: "No One to the Right of Sam Alito on this Court,"* is available at <http://media.pfaw.org/stc/alito-final.pdf>. A copy of our report is also enclosed with this letter, and we would be pleased to submit it for inclusion in the record of the hearings on Judge Alito's nomination.

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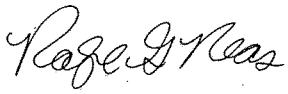
For all these reasons and those set out in detail in our January 2006 report analyzing Judge Alito's record, we strongly urge the Judiciary Committee to reject Judge Alito's confirmation.

Sincerely,



Ralph G. Neas
President