Japanese American Citizens League
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January 8, 2006

Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senate
Ranking Minority Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
433 Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, wishes to express our strong opposition to the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Alito's legal opinions and writings over the past several years have left a clear record of an individual whose legal views could have serious negative impact on the nation's Asian American communities. As a civil rights organization, we are not only troubled by Judge Alito's ideological brand of conservatism, but also by his judicial leanings that would make tenuous the constitutional protections of American citizens.

The record shows that Judge Alito once stated proudly his opposition to affirmative action; as a lawyer for the government, he has argued that immigrants can be denied basic protections and rights guaranteed by the Constitution; he has shown little regard for individuals who have sought sanctuary in the U.S. through the political asylum appeal process; he has expressed a legal opinion that would support racial discrimination in employment cases; he has written an opinion that would have denied a gender discrimination case to be heard by the court; he has raised serious concerns about the "one person one vote" concept of democracy; he has shown a proclivity to undermine due process and privacy protections

The Supreme Court is in many instances the final arbiter in protecting the rights of Americans and therefore should not be a vehicle for those who would push for a political agenda, be it from the left or the right of the political spectrum. Given the early pronouncements in his career and his legal opinions either as a government attorney or from the bench, we are not convinced that Judge Alito can serve the interests of the people as a member of the highest court of the land.

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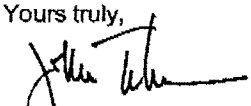
The Japanese American Citizens League urges you, as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to vigorously question Judge Alito on his past record and to carefully examine his current legal positions. The JACL strongly opposes Judge Alito's nomination and does not believe that his confirmation as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court serves the best interest of all the people of this great nation.

Yours truly,



John Tateishi
National Executive Director

Via Facsimile 202-224-3479