Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2005

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

As Members of the Congressional Hispanic Conference, we are writing to endorse President George W. Bush's nomination of Judge John Roberts for the Supreme Court of the United States.

We agree with Senator Reid, when he stated that "the President has chosen someone with suitable legal credentials." Judge Roberts is not only a jurist with a superb legal background, but he has shown himself to be a man of integrity with a stellar professional reputation for fair-mindedness.

Most importantly, we are confident that Judge Roberts will faithfully defend the United States Constitution. By upholding our Constitution—the very backbone of our Republic—Judge Roberts will be a staunch defender of the rights of all Americans, regardless of their ethnicity, race, gender, or economic status.

As a nominee for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Judge Roberts was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee with overwhelming bipartisan support and was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on *the same day*.

We also strongly believe that the Senate should follow the confirmation process of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, which was a model of bipartisanship and was conducted in a timely manner. During Justice Ginsburg's confirmation, Senators appropriately did not make unfair, unprecedented, and exhaustive demands about her personal views on specific political issues. We believe that one of the most critical characteristics a Supreme Court Justice should have is to judge cases and issues as they arise before the Court, based on the facts and the Constitution. Asking a potential Justice to pre-judge individual cases based on his or her personal political views is a disservice to the rights of all Americans under the Constitution.

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As Members of the Congressional Hispanic Conference, we support the nomination of judges who will protect the rights of all Americans, and thus we are proud to support Judge John Roberts' nomination to the Supreme Court. We strongly urge you to conduct fair and timely hearings, to hold an up-or-down vote, and to confirm Judge Roberts in time for the start of the Supreme Court's session on October 3rd of this year.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chair
Congressional Hispanic Conference

Luis G. Fortuño, Vice-Chair
Congressional Hispanic Conference

Henry Bonilla, Member
Congressional Hispanic Conference

Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Member
Congressional Hispanic Conference

Mario Diaz-Balart, Member
Congressional Hispanic Conference

Chris Cannon, Associate Member
Congressional Hispanic Conference

Randy Neugebauer, Associate Member
Congressional Hispanic Conference

CC: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee