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María "Mayita" Meléndez Altieri
Alcaldesa

June 5, 2009

Hon. Patrick Leahy, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
433 Russell
Senate Office Building
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Senator:

Judge Sonia Sotomayor has been an excellent ambassador for the Hispanic and Puerto Rican people. Her life is a dignified example of struggle and survival. Ever since she was a student in High School who lived in a public housing project in the South Bronx, she has been a constant defender of human rights and has always struggled for the benefit of others.

Although growing up wasn't entirely smooth for Sonia Sotomayor, she was able to fulfill her goals and became a Lawyer, a distinguished Law Professor, an excellent writer and an Honorable Judge, respected by her peers. Over her ten years on the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in New York City, she has attended more than 3,000 appeals and has written more than 3,800 opinions.

Sonia Sotomayor is a leader, a great leader of herself. She gained a reputation for preparedness and fairness, a fearless and effective prosecutor. As a trial judge she garnered a reputation for being well-prepared in advance of a case and moving cases along a tight schedule. Due to the fact that Sonia Sotomayor was the first Puerto Rican woman to serve in United States Federal Court, we the people of Ponce, Puerto Rico feel very proud of her accomplishments and we know she would bring to the Nation's Highest Court her knowledge, wisdom, experience and sensibility.

I, María E. Meléndez Altieri, Mayor of the City of Ponce, in the name of my fellow citizens hope that Judge Sotomayor will be confirmed as Associated Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States of America. The numerous awards and honors received by this singular and humble Puerto Rican and Hispanic woman, her impressive academic and professional record and her "curriculum vitae" are the best presentation of her achievement.

God bless America, the Land of Opportunities and Dreams.

Respectfully yours,

María E. Meléndez Altieri, D.M.D.

María E. Meléndez-Altieri, DMD
Mayor of the City of Ponce

Gobierno de Acción y Progreso

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