National
Urban League

Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.

January 10, 2006

Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

As you know, the National Urban League, Inc. ("Urban League") is the oldest community-based civil rights organization in the country. Through our 102 professionally-staffed affiliates, located in 34 states and in the District of Columbia, the Urban League works to ensure, in a non-partisan way, economic and social parity and full civil rights for African-Americans and other people of color.

Nominations to the United States Supreme Court are of particular concern to the Urban League Movement because of the high Court's tremendous power and impact on the issues relevant to our mission of securing civil rights and economic empowerment for African Americans. Since the President nominated Judge Samuel Alito, Jr. to be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, the National Urban League has carefully and exhaustively reviewed his judicial record, judicial philosophy, and professional qualifications. Our study found that Judge Alito has a long and unambiguous history of opposition to critical and established voting rights protections, civil rights remedies and social justice guarantees. Our examination also established that Judge Alito frequently injects this philosophy into his judicial decision-making, often in direct contravention of well-settled law. A copy of our report is attached.

Based upon this review, it is our conclusion that Judge Alito's stated opposition to reasonable and established civil rights remedies and voting rights protections, and his consistent record of injecting these views into his decision-making to the degree that it undermines basic civil rights protections make him unsuitable for a seat on our nation's highest court.

Therefore, we urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to reject the nomination of Judge Alito to be a Supreme Court Justice and look forward to working with you to ensure the nomination and confirmation of judges who will uphold fundamental civil rights protections.

Respectfully,

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Marc H. Morial
President and CEO

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