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**The Honorable Lurita Doan**

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13 June 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States of America  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

The resignation of Justice Souter from our nation's highest court affords an historic opportunity to appoint a nominee who combines a range of unrivaled traits. Judge Sonia Sotomayor is such a nominee.

Judge Sotomayor's personal and professional experiences make her uniquely sensitive to the concerns of a wide range of Americans. She was raised by a widowed mother in a Bronx housing project and worked hard to graduate *summa cum laude* from Princeton and to become an editor of the Yale Law Journal. For the first four years of her career, Judge Sotomayor prosecuted criminal defendants under Manhattan's legendary District Attorney Robert Morgenthau. She later spent eight years representing businesses at the international firm of Pavia & Harcourt.

Judge Sotomayor's legal career has included not only criminal prosecution and commercial litigation, but also academia and appointment to the federal bench at the age of thirty-eight. For the past ten years, her intellect, integrity, and consensus-building have made her a highly respected jurist on the Second Circuit. This followed a distinguished career as a federal trial judge, during which Judge Sotomayor's pragmatism and resolve brought the national baseball strike to an end that satisfied all parties. She taught for over nine years at the New York University School of Law and at Columbia Law School, and has been a mentor to hundreds of attorneys and students as a member of the Puerto Rican and the Hispanic National Bar Associations. This wealth of experience has impressed upon her both the law's potential, as well as its limits.

Judge Sotomayor is an exceptional candidate who combines superior legal skills with a wide-ranging personal and professional background. For these reasons, I commend your choice of Judge Sotomayor for our country's next Supreme Court Justice.

Sincerely,



Lurita Doan

CC: Mr. Rahm Emanuel  
Ms. Valerio Jarrett  
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

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CC: Hon. Patrick J. Leahy  
Hon. Herb Kohl  
Hon. Arlen Specter  
Hon. Dianne Feinstein  
Hon. Orrin G. Hatch  
Hon. Russell D. Feingold  
Hon. Charles E. Grassley  
Hon. Charles E. Schumer  
Hon. Jon Kyl  
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