



## BOROUGH OF HALEDON COUNCIL

REYNALDO R. MARTINEZ

Councilman, Borough of Haledon

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[Reynaldomartinez@haledonboronj.com](mailto:Reynaldomartinez@haledonboronj.com)

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

I congratulate President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder for nominating Thomas Perez for Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division. There is no doubt that Mr. Perez's qualifications and record are outstanding. Mr. Perez will lead gracefully the division of the Department of Justice responsible for enforcing federal statutes prohibiting discrimination particularly those statutes that protect the voting rights of our diverse populations. As you know, prior to his election to the Montgomery County Council in 2002, Perez served as deputy assistant attorney general for civil rights, and director of the Office for Civil Rights for the Department of Health and Human Services in the Clinton administration.

I am aware that one of Perez's most important tasks will be enforcing the Voting Rights Act, one of the most successful enactments of the U.S. Congress in the previous century. It provided millions of African-Americans with the right to register and vote. It also gave African Americans the power to elect candidates of their choice, in turn providing African Americans with a voice in government and the decision making process. The Voting Rights Act has had a positive, albeit less dramatic effect on the election of Latino public officials. According to the US Census Bureau the estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2003, is 39.9 million, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest race or ethnic minority. This number is expected to rise significantly in the near future, and does not include the 3.9 million residents of Puerto Rico. It is imperative that the Latino population be better represented in government, and in the electoral process.

I strongly support Mr. Perez for Assistant Attorney General, and I am confident that he will work with Congress and administration officials to fortify the federal voter registration and election reform laws. With his experience, commitment, and knowledge, Thomas Perez will help to eliminate inequitable barriers in the electoral process, and make certain the Civil Rights Division carefully scrutinizes state redistricting efforts following the 2010 Census.

Sincerely,

Reynaldo R. Martinez

Councilman  
Haledon, New Jersey

Liaison Department of Fire Safety;

Committees: Dept. of Public Works; Health & Welfare; Administration & Personnel;

Commissioner NJ Advisory Council on Corrections

# League of Dominican American Elected Officials

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NY County Legislator

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**Yesenia Frias**  
Councilwoman

April 9, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

We applaud President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder's nomination of Thomas Perez for Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division. Mr. Perez is exceptionally qualified to lead the division of the Department of Justice responsible for enforcing federal statutes prohibiting discrimination, particularly statutes that protect the voting rights of all Americans. If as expected, the U.S. Senate confirms Perez's appointment he will become the key official responsible for enforcing federal civil rights laws. Perez brings on-point experience to this role. Prior to his election to the Montgomery County Council in 2002, Perez served as deputy assistant attorney general for civil rights and director of the Office for Civil Rights for the Department of Health and Human Services in the Clinton administration.

One of Perez's most important tasks will be enforcing the Voting Rights Act, one of the most successful enactments of the U.S. Congress in the 20th century. It enfranchised millions of African-Americans previously denied the right to register and vote. It also empowered African-Americans and other minorities to elect candidates of their choice. From a small handful prior to 1965, the number of black elected officials in the United States soared to about 9,000 by the year 2000, according to a compilation by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

The Voting Rights Act has had a positive although less dramatic effect on the election of Latino public officials. Today about 270 Latinos serve as members of the U.S. Congress and state legislatures, according to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials who has hailed Perez as "exceptionally qualified" to enforce "federal statutes prohibiting discrimination, and particularly statutes that protect the voting rights of all Americans." More must be done to ensure the voting rights and elected office opportunities for Latinos in the United States.

We strongly support Thomas Perez for Assistant Attorney General and trust that he will work with Congress and administration officials to strengthen the enforcement of federal voter registration and election reform laws to eliminate unfair barriers in the electoral process, and ensure the Civil Rights Division carefully scrutinizes state redistricting efforts following the 2010 Census.

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GENERAL COUNSEL  
BETTY B. ROBBINS



April 14, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman  
433 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-4502

The Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-3802

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

In advance of Senate Judiciary confirmation hearings, we write to express the Anti-Defamation League's strong support for Tom Perez to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Department of Justice. We believe Mr. Perez is an outstanding choice to serve in this critically important Justice Department post because of his professionalism, his temperament, his energy and creativity, and his longstanding commitment to public service, civil rights, and fair treatment for all.

ADL professionals have worked with Mr. Perez over the past fifteen years, primarily through his service in leadership roles in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division during the Clinton Administration and as Special Counsel to Senator Edward M. Kennedy. The League has especially benefited from his very fine work in efforts to enact comprehensive federal hate crime laws, and in addressing racial profiling in a manner designed to properly balance individual rights and legitimate national security concerns.

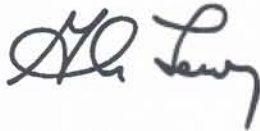
Mr. Perez has demonstrated very significant commitment to public service and equal rights. We have found him to be an individual of highest character and integrity.

In addition to managing the diverse work of the Civil Rights Division, the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights must be ready and willing to use the position as a bully pulpit on behalf of fairness, equal treatment, and justice. Mr. Perez's legal background and professional involvements, as well as his extensive experiences in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, make him uniquely qualified to carry out the important responsibilities of this job.

At this time of great opportunity and challenge, we believe Mr. Perez is an excellent nominee for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. We are confident that he will serve our nation with distinction.

We urge the Committee to act promptly and favorably on this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen S. Lewy".

Glen S. Lewy  
National Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abraham H. Foxman".

Abraham H. Foxman  
National Director

cc: Jess N. Hordes, ADL Washington Director

# League of Dominican American Elected Officials

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Miguel Martinez  
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Nelson L. Castro  
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Reynaldo R. Martinez  
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Filo Rivas  
N.J. Commissioner

Vivian Viloria - Fisher  
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William Lantigua  
I.A. State Rep.

Esenia Frias  
Councilwoman

April 9, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

We applaud President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder's nomination of Thomas Perez for Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division. Mr. Perez is exceptionally qualified to lead the division of the Department of Justice responsible for enforcing federal statutes prohibiting discrimination, particularly statutes that protect the voting rights of all Americans. If as expected, the U.S. Senate confirms Perez's appointment he will become the key official responsible for enforcing federal civil rights laws. Perez brings on-point experience to this role. Prior to his election to the Montgomery County Council in 2002, Perez served as deputy assistant attorney general for civil rights and director of the Office for Civil Rights for the Department of Health and Human Services in the Clinton administration.

One of Perez's most important tasks will be enforcing the Voting Rights Act, one of the most successful enactments of the U.S. Congress in the 20th century. It enfranchised millions of African-Americans previously denied the right to register and vote. It also empowered African-Americans and other minorities to elect candidates of their choice. From a small handful prior to 1965, the number of black elected officials in the United States soared to about 9,000 by the year 2000, according to a compilation by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

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We strongly support Thomas Perez for Assistant Attorney General and trust that he will work with Congress and administration officials to strengthen the enforcement of federal voter registration and election reform laws to eliminate unfair barriers in the electoral process, and ensure the Civil Rights Division carefully scrutinizes state redistricting efforts following the 2010 Census.

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

April 16, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, Senate Committee  
On the Judiciary  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee  
On the Judiciary  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Pat, Arlen and Members of the Committee:

I write to enthusiastically endorse Tom Perez's nomination to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Department of Justice. As you know, Tom did an excellent job for me from 1995 to 1998, on my Judiciary Committee staff when I was a member of the Committee. I believe he's an exceptional choice for Assistant Attorney General, and I urge his prompt confirmation.

During Tom's impressive service on my staff, he worked hard and well on civil rights, hate crimes, and a variety of immigration, criminal and constitutional issues. Work on civil rights has been at the core of Tom's career, which began as a prosecutor in the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division, where he helped bring to justice the perpetrators of hate crimes, including racially-motivated shootings. He also prosecuted law enforcement officials involved in violent and corrupt practices, and his work as a career prosecutor earned him promotion to deputy chief of the Criminal Section.

After serving on my staff, Tom returned to the Civil Rights Division as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General, supervising the Division's criminal prosecutions, and its litigation in the areas of education and employment discrimination. He had a key role in establishing the interagency Worker Exploitation Task Force, which coordinated enforcement of laws against involuntary servitude and trafficking in persons.

In 1999, Tom became Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services, where he led a staff of 230 people in ensuring that health and human services providers complied with civil rights laws.

Letter to Senator Leahy and Senator Specter

April 16, 2009

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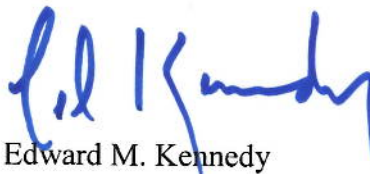
Upon leaving the federal government in 2001, Tom became a professor of law at the University of Maryland School of Law. Motivated by his strong desire to make a difference in peoples' lives, Tom also was elected to the Montgomery County Council in Maryland, and became a leader in promoting affordable housing and affordable health care, as well as improvements in education. Finally, for the past two years, Tom has served as Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

A main unifying theme of Tom's career is his desire to help people, by ensuring that their rights are protected and that they receive the services they need. His commitment to public service and his ability to be effective in both executive and legislative positions is impressive. He has been energetic in seeking change, and working cooperatively with others to achieve it.

A second main theme of Tom's career has been his exceptional performance as a lawyer. He's been highly successful as a prosecutor, as a lawyer serving this Committee, as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General and as a law professor. Importantly, Tom understands the role of a government lawyer. Having been a career attorney in the Department of Justice, he knows the importance of developing effective working relationships with career employees and making sure that law enforcement decisions are made on the basis of the facts and the law, without favoritism based on partisanship or ideology. In light of the challenges that the Department of Justice, and especially the Civil Rights Division, have faced in recent years, these are indispensable qualities in an Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Tom's outstanding legal skills, his years of impressive experience as a prosecutor, his career-long commitment to enforcing civil rights, and his thorough familiarity with the legal and policy issues in the Civil Rights Division make him uniquely well qualified to lead the Division now. I strongly urge the Committee to report his nomination favorably.

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy

John M. Kane  
President and CEO



April 17, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlin Specter  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Leahy and Specter:

Please accept this letter as my endorsement of Mr. Thomas E. Perez as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. I first met Tom when he was a member of the Montgomery County, Maryland County Council. In his capacity as a member of the County Council, he showed a true willingness to work closely with Republicans and Democrats alike and emphasized an open-mindedness that was refreshing. I met often with Tom to discuss a variety of issues affecting the livelihood of Montgomery County residents in the state of Maryland. Never once did a discussion lead to partisan politics, and more often than not, we both walked away better informed and educated.

My relationship with Mr. Perez developed further as I became Chairman of the Maryland Republican Party from 2002-2006. Over the course of those four years, we would meet on occasion to review the political landscape in the state of Maryland. We would discuss business issues, wherein he regularly showed a willingness to listen, as well as, bring different stakeholders to the table to work on issues outside the realm of partisan politics. A few folks thought it odd that a leading Democrat on the County Council of Montgomery County, Maryland maintained such a strong relationship with the chair of the Maryland Republican Party. What most of them did not understand was that with Mr. Perez, it was never about politics, but about policy and what was best for those he served.

His prior experience of working at the Justice Department, being involved in local politics dealing with the daily challenges local government, and his current role as Secretary of the Department of Licensing and Regulation, gives him a unique perspective to be able to serve, if confirmed, as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED].

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Kane  
President and CEO

JMK:jrf



## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH POLICY

*Advancing health policy dialogue in the Upper Midwest*

April 17, 2009

Senator Patrick Leahy  
433 Russell Senate Office Bldg  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Pat,

I wish you well. I write to endorse the President's decision to nominate Tom Perez for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. And to strongly recommend you confirm him for that responsibility.

I have known Tom Perez for a number of years since I left the Senate. Much of our work has been involved in discussing policies to improve healthcare for the wide variety of Americans who lack regular access to private health and/or long term care insurance in this country. Many of these people are, from time to time in the Medicaid programs in 50 states. Others are people with disabilities whose access depends a great deal on where they live and the adequacy of state budgets to stimulate improvement in support services.

Our work was on a bi-partisan commission which has included several of my former Republican colleagues in the Senate. I also know of Tom's work in civil rights and his service in the Justice Department under both Democratic and Republican administrations. I know his politics are different from mine, and there are always important differences. But I looked forward so much to our mutual pro-bona work in the policy arena I've described, because he was a good learner and a good teacher and we always got a lot out of sessions in which Tom participated.

From the many years we worked together on this, you know my own experience in collaborating to get to common ground in challenging civil rights policy, without abandoning principal. I believe from my experience with him, that you will find Tom Perez to be just this kind of leader in the department in civil rights at a time when these particular gifts are much needed.

Sincerely,

Dave Durenberger  
U.S. Senator (R-MN) 1978-95  
Chair, National Institute of Health Policy

**ALEXANDER GORDON, IV**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
**8615 COMMERCE DRIVE #1**  
**EASTON, MARYLAND 21601-7421**  
410-822-3702  
FAX 410-822-9356

April 20, 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

I write the Senate Judiciary Committee in strong support of the nomination of Secretary Thomas E. Perez as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. A brief review of his amazing CV stands on its own two feet. My personal interaction and professional relationship tells me that Secretary Perez is a perfect fit for this position with the Attorneys General Office.

By way of background, for thirty some years I have written numerous volumes, letters, and articles on Maryland foreclosure. I have been interviewed by NPR, Business Week, The Wall Street Journal, MSBA Journal, AP, UPI, Fox TV, and been asked to testify at the Maryland Senate Judiciary and House. I have helped draft some of the new legislation in Maryland relating to bankruptcy exemptions, protection of homeowners in foreclosure and the Rules of Procedure.

Over the last thirty years writing these books was fairly simple: the laws were largely unchanged since the Ginsburg brothers wrote *Mortgages and Other Liens* in the 1930's. Although the foreclosure system was well understood, it was a remarkably fast and lacked any fair process, let alone *due* process. Attempts for revision were uniformly rejected out-of-hand, time and time again.

Governor O'Malley saw a problem with a foreclosure process where it only required mailing a notice by regular and certified mail ten days before the auction. The only advertisements were: Wednesday, Wednesday, Wednesday, sale on Thursday: 15 days. If one did not receive the "10 day certified letter because of a two week vacation, too bad. When returning from the two week vacation one might open the 10 letter telling you, at that point, when your house *had* been sold: no right of redemption.

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
The Honorable Arlen Specter  
April 20, 2009  
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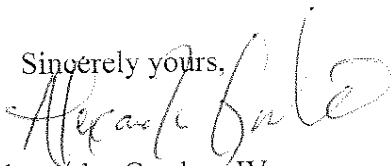
Well, the list of due process deficiencies went on and on. But no one in authority cared one little bit. Good for the author of *Gordon on Maryland Foreclosures*, Editions I-IV. Not so good for the honest but unfortunate borrower.

With that in mind, the Governor established the "Governor's Task Force to Preserve Home Ownership." The Task Force was headed by the Secretary of the Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation, Secretary Thomas E. Perez. Tom Perez diplomatically constructed a massive set of Task Forces that included elements of *all* sides. After numerous meetings and hearing, the Secretary pulled together a remarkable consensus of opinion for foreclosure reform. Lenders were slightly affected and homeowners were given a meaningful opportunity to attempt a loan restructuring, modification, or some other form of "loss mitigation," as well as a meaningful mini-moratorium on foreclosures.

Now, what was amazing to me was that all of Secretary Perez's hearings resulted in a consensus for change and improvement in the foreclosure process: service of court papers, a notice of intent to foreclose, notice forms, and the involvement of the Department of Labor Licensing & Regulation in tracking the renewal of mortgage broker licenses where ill-advised mortgages were being processed by the lenders. In days gone by, self-interest precluded the need to regulate mortgage brokers at this level. The packaging, sale, and securitization, and huge up front fees changed all the rules. The Governor signed the new foreclosure laws an Emergency Order so they would be effective as soon as possible.

I could go on and on. Clearly, Secretary Perez will be a tremendous asset to the Department of Justice. I urge his confirmation.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,  
  
Alexander Gordon, IV

AGIV/jk



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS  
SEVENTH DISTRICT  
MARYLAND

April 20, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

I write to express my strong, unqualified support for the confirmation of Thomas Perez as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice.

The urgent need for strong, experienced and motivated leadership of the Civil Rights Division cannot be overstated.

The historic ascension of our first African American President and Attorney General reflect progress that is both substantive and lasting. As far too many Americans are painfully aware, however, this progress does not mean that our nation's long journey toward becoming a truly just and inclusive society is at an end.

President Obama and Attorney General Holder need the most qualified and determined leadership in the Civil Rights Division that America's legal community can provide. I am firmly convinced that Thomas Perez exemplifies the character, experience and dedication that will be required.

Tom Perez is gifted with a penetrating intellect honed at Brown, The Harvard Law School and The John F. Kennedy School of Government. His professional work has coupled that intellectual acumen with an exemplary record of public service and dedication to civil rights.

He has consistently advanced and defended civil rights as a federal prosecutor for the Civil Rights Division, Special Counsel for Senator Edward Kennedy, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under former Attorney General Janet Reno, Director of the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services and, currently, as Maryland Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

In addition, Tom Perez taught at the University of Maryland School of Law from 2001 until 2007, where he advanced the school's nationally recognized clinical law and health program - and he currently serves on the faculty of the George Washington School of Public Health.

On a personal note, I have been privileged to work with Thomas Perez in his current role as Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. He has been a vocal leader in our shared efforts to combat foreclosures and improve workplace protections.

He has shown a great ability to bring parties together and build consensus in important policy areas without compromising his commitment to helping people. In these times of great economic distress, Tom has been a true voice for all Marylanders.

Chairman Leahy, it is hard to imagine how President Obama and Attorney General Holder could have made a better choice to help them restore the Civil Rights Division as this nation's leading defender of our fundamental freedoms. While I acknowledge proper deference to the Senate's constitutional power and responsibility in this matter, I also believe that it is essential - and appropriate - to add my personal voice in support this nomination.

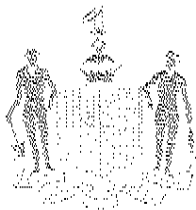
Tom Perez has committed his entire career to advancing civil rights and serving the public good. He is uniquely qualified to repair what has been broken at the Civil Rights Division - and I urge his speedy confirmation.

Sincerely,

Elijah Cummings, Member of Congress

EEC: mc





STATE'S ATTORNEY  
JOHN J. MCCARTHY

*State's Attorney for Montgomery County*  
*50 Maryland Avenue*  
*Rockville, Maryland 20850*

April 20, 2009

Chairman Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

I am writing to urge the confirmation of Tom Perez as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice.

Mr. Perez currently holds the position of Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation. In that capacity, Tom took on the challenge of revamping a state agency that had been long neglected and widely seen as ineffective. Under Tom's leadership, this agency has gained stature and become well respected by lawmakers and other government officials.

Tom has also served as Maryland's leader to combat the mortgage foreclosure crisis. Tom played a key role in helping to craft a legislative package that has been called among the most sweeping in the nation. Tom was the first public official, that I am aware of, that several years before the current mortgage crises became apparent, publicly talked about the danger that lurked ahead in America's housing market due to a crisis in sub-prime mortgages.

Tom is a committed career public servant. Tom spent 12 years in federal public service, the majority as a federal prosecutor for the Civil Rights Division. Tom served as special counsel to Senator Edward Kennedy and was his principal advisor on civil rights and criminal justice. Tom was a law professor at the University of Maryland School of Law from 2001 – 2007 where he taught a civil rights clinic focusing on employment issues, health law and criminal justice.

Chairman Patrick Leahy  
April 20, 2009  
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Tom is married to Ann Marie Staudenmaier (a public interest lawyer) and father of three. Educated at our nation's finest universities including Brown and Harvard, Tom is a brilliant and articulate man of tremendous depth.

I urge you to act favorably on Tom's nomination and confirm him as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. McCarthy", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

John J. McCarthy

cc: Senator Arlen Specter  
Sarah Hackett

April 20, 2009

Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Minority Member, Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Thomas E. Perez**

The undersigned individuals served as Assistant Attorneys General for Civil Rights in the United States Department of Justice under both Republican and Democratic Administrations. We write to support the nomination of Thomas E. Perez for that position and to urge the Committee to confirm him.

The position of Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights is a significant appointment because the role of the Civil Rights Division in enforcing our nation's civil rights laws is important to our system of government. For each of us, it was a signal privilege to serve in that position and to lead the career lawyers of the Division in enforcing our nation's guarantees of fairness and equality.

The Civil Rights Division jurisdiction has been established by Congress to enforce anti-discrimination laws in areas such as voting rights, fair housing, education, disability access, employment, law enforcement and hate crimes. We are pleased that President Obama has stated his support for vigorous enforcement of the civil rights laws, and believe that Mr. Perez is an excellent choice to lead the Division in doing so.

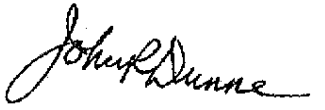
Mr. Perez' qualifications and experience establish that he is well qualified to lead the Civil Rights Division. While Mr. Perez has many worthy achievements, we focus on his decade-long work as a career attorney at the Civil Rights Division from 1989-99. In that period, Mr. Perez prosecuted numerous federal civil rights violations involving racial violence, hate crimes and police misconduct nationwide, including crimes committed by white supremacists. Indeed, Mr. Perez received an Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service for his work on prosecution of a hate crime. Mr. Perez eventually rose to Deputy Chief of the Division's Criminal Section, supervising other prosecutors, and then to Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, overseeing the work of the Criminal, Education and Employment Sections. (The position of Deputy Assistant Attorney General is the most responsible position in the Civil Rights Division short of Assistant Attorney General.) Most of us have personally worked with Mr. Perez and all

of us believe that his record as a prosecutor and manager is in the best traditions of the Civil Rights Division.

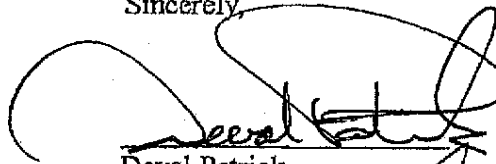
Rarely has a nominee for Assistant Attorney General had the hands-on experience in civil rights law enforcement in the Department of Justice that Mr. Perez possesses. Beyond this, Mr. Perez will bring to the leadership of the Civil Rights Division other valuable real-world experience, including his service as head of the Health and Human Services Department's Office for Civil Rights and civil rights advisor to Senator Edward Kennedy.

It is fitting that the President has nominated Mr. Perez, a former Civil Rights Division career lawyer, to head the Division. It shows the confidence of the President in the Division's career lawyers and staff and their work.

Sincerely,



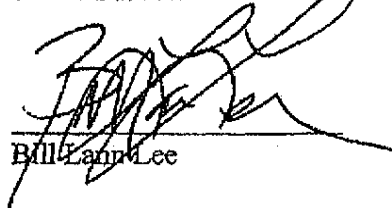
John R. Dunne



Deval Patrick



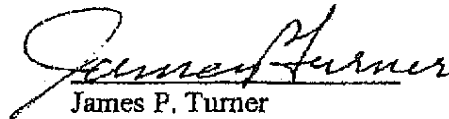
J. Stanley Pottinger



Bill Lann Lee



Stephen J. Pollak



James P. Turner



The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It is a great honor to recommend Thomas E. Perez for the position of Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

We have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Perez in his capacity as Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, which is home to the Maryland Real Estate Commission. Secretary Perez has always worked with our industry in a cooperative manner, addressing issues such as the foreclosure crisis, abusive mortgage and lending practices, employment misclassification and the dedicated funding mechanism for the Real Estate Commission. He has demonstrated a superior intellect, a great willingness to moderate between disparate interest groups and a tireless commitment to public service.

While it is clear that Mr. Perez has both the intellect and the determination to provide leadership for the Civil Rights Division, the highest complement we can pay him is that he is a man of his word. In the negotiations over the employment misclassification legislation adopted this year by the Maryland General Assembly, Secretary Perez promised the Maryland Association of REALTORS® that the final product would not disturb the statutory exemptions from workers compensation and unemployment insurance for licensed real estate agents and brokers. The bill awaits the signature of Governor O'Malley and our concerns were incorporated into the legislation, just as Secretary Perez promised.

On behalf of the 29,000 members of the Maryland Association of REALTORS®, we urge the Judiciary Committee to act favorably on the nomination of Thomas E. Perez.

Sincerely,

Iona C. Harrison  
MAR President



10201 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HIGHWAY SUITE 220 ▲ BOWIE, MD 20720  
301-860-0809 PHONE ▲ 301-860-1449 FAX ▲ BIZROUNDTABLE.ORG

M.H. JIM ESTEPP  
President & CEO

April 20, 2009

The Honorable Senator Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Leahy:

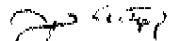
I'm writing in strong support for the confirmation of Thomas E. Perez as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at the United States Department of Justice. Mr. Perez has an impeccable record in the arena of civil rights, already punctuated by his service as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Clinton Administration under Attorney General Janet Reno. In addition, his service as Director of the Office of Civil Rights at the United States Department of Health and Human Services further cements his well-earned reputation as an expert in the field of civil rights.

Secretary Perez's work in the State of Maryland leading the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation displays his ability to take on significant challenges and quickly respond with successful campaigns. His foresight at the beginning of the foreclosure crisis in the state is just one of several examples of his ability to recognize and react to a problem well ahead of his peers. The legislative package crafted with his guidance addressing the crisis was amongst the most sweeping in the nation.

On a personal level, I have known Tom Perez for many years and I consider him a man of great integrity and strong work ethic who leads by example. His leadership skills are time-tested and he has never wavered in his approach at creating consensus and applying rational solutions to seemingly untenable problems. His skills are a perfect compliment to the team already assembled to serve under Attorney General Holder.

It is my privilege and honor to know Tom Perez and I submit the Administration could not have made a better choice for the nomination to this crucial post at the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

  
M.H. Jim Estopp

Cc: Senator Arlen Specter, Ranking Member



STATE CAPITOL  
ROOM 208  
(573) 751-2379

**ROBIN CARNAHAN**  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF MISSOURI

JAMES C. KIRKPATRICK  
STATE INFORMATION CENTER  
(573) 751-4936

April 20, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
The Honorable Arlen Specter  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

via facsimile – 202-224-9516

via facsimile – 202-224-9102

Dear Senators Leahy and Specter:

We want to add our voices to the growing chorus of people recommending the confirmation of Tom Perez as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Although we come from different political parties, we share a common belief that Tom's outstanding credentials and broad experience make him uniquely qualified to serve and succeed in this critically important role.

Tom's many years in the Justice Department's Office for Civil Rights alone prepare him well to lead that division. But his experience as a civil rights lawyer, professor, local elected official and head of a 1700 employee state agency give him a unique understanding and depth of experience that will serve the Department well. As state elected officials, we would be thrilled to have someone with Tom's knowledge and understanding of the distinct roles and interrelationship between federal, state and local governments directing the Office for Civil Rights.

Tom Perez also has an uncanny ability to listen, which allows him to get beyond the ordinary political paradigms and find common ground and new ways of solving problems. This talent will no doubt be especially valuable to a Department that will continue to face intense public scrutiny in the years ahead.

We couldn't think of a better nominee as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Sincerely,

Robin Carnahan  
Missouri Secretary of State

Trey Grayson  
Secretary of State  
Commonwealth of Kentucky

**Ronald R. Peterson**  
**President**  
**Johns Hopkins Health System**  
**733 N. Broadway, BRB 104**  
**Baltimore, MD 21205**

**William G. Robertson**  
**President & CEO**  
**Adventist HealthCare**  
**1801 Research Blvd #400**  
**Rockville, MD 20850**

April 20, 2009

Senator Patrick Leahy  
433 Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Arlene Specter  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Gentlemen:

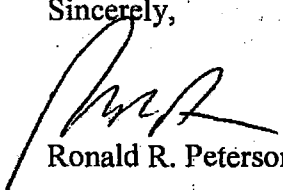
Later this month, the Senate Judiciary Committee will take up the nomination of Thomas E. Perez for the post of Assistant U.S. Attorney General for Civil Rights. We are writing in support of this nomination.

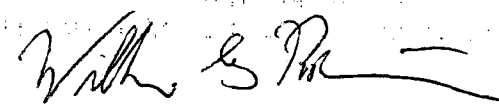
In our roles as senior leaders of two large health care organizations and through our positions on the Maryland Governor's Workforce Investment Board, we have had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Perez in his role as the Maryland Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and in his role as a Montgomery County (Maryland) Councilman.

In all of our associations with him, we have found Mr. Perez to be a person with great capacity and passion for service, a person of incisive intellect, and a man of high ideals and ethics.

Mr. Perez has served our community and nation well in a variety of roles and we urge you to confirm him for the role of Assistant U.S. Attorney for Civil Rights.

Sincerely,

  
Ronald R. Peterson

  
William G. Robertson

Stephen H. Sachs  
5 Roland Mews  
Baltimore, Maryland 21210

April 20, 2009

Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Thomas E. Perez

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write in enthusiastic support of President Obama's nomination of Thomas E. Perez of Maryland to be Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice.

I have spent a considerable part of my life at the Bar as a public lawyer, first as an Assistant United States Attorney (1961-1964), then as United States Attorney for the District of Maryland (1967-1970) and finally as Maryland's Attorney General (1979-1987). I know the demands and challenges of serving as a lawyer for the public: not only the obvious requirements of absolute integrity and sound legal judgment, but also the need to set high standards and to lead by example. And I think I can fairly lay claim to a sense of the special needs of those among us --- the poor, minorities, victims of historic discrimination --- for an effective and dedicated advocate.

Tom Perez, by temperament and training, possesses all of these qualities. I have been closely associated with his career for the past five years and am familiar with his outstanding accomplishments and his splendid reputation. In my view, he is uniquely qualified to restore the Civil Rights Division to its role as the Nation's premier voice for equal justice.

Tom's entire career has prepared him for this responsibility:

--- During his twelve years of federal public service he was a front line prosecutor in the Civil Rights Division where he prosecuted scores of tough and challenging cases, including criminal violation of constitutional rights, corrupt public officials and hate crimes. He eventually served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under Attorney General Reno.

--- He served as Special Counsel to Senator Edward Kennedy and was senator Kennedy's principal advisor on civil rights, criminal justice and constitutional issues.

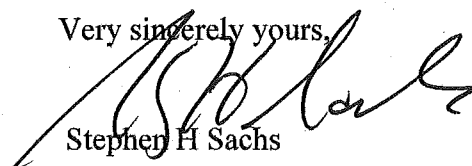
--- He was Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services for several years and is widely credited with revitalizing that Office and fulfilling its mission to enforce the civil rights laws that relate to the work of DHHS.

--- As Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation he once again breathed new life into a moribund agency. I know first hand that DLLR has been a traditional backwater in Maryland State government. Under Tom Perez' leadership, however, it is fast becoming one of the most creative and productive departments in Maryland. DLLR has led the way in combating the foreclosure crisis, in fighting fraudulent misclassification of employees as independent contractors and in creating worker retraining programs that help insure a strong and talented workforce even in an uncertain economic era. Tom's formula for success is simple: the ability to recruit outstanding staff and the retention and reinvigoration of experienced staff, all of which is made possible by his drive, his expertise, his contagious sense of mission and his outstanding leadership skills.

These items are an outline of Tom's formidable talents and achievements. But there is something else, equally important, that I have learned over the many hours I have spent with Tom over the years. Tom Perez is committed --- committed to his core --- to the mission of the Department of Justice and to the Civil Rights Division, where his career took root. Tom knows that those lofty phrases etched into the building's marble facade are not empty phrases. They are living commands. They describe the path the Department of Justice is sworn to follow.

Tom's nomination is a credit to the Administration. The Department and the Nation will be served well by his appointment. I hope and trust that the Committee will promptly confirm this exemplary nominee.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephen H. Sachs", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen H Sachs

cc: Honorable Arlen Specter



April 21, 2009

[REDACTED]

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

I am delighted to offer the strongest endorsement of Tom Perez for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Tom worked for me as Director of the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) during our term of office.

He inherited a dispirited office, underfunded without direction. He completely turned it around. He is a fine administrator, a skillful leader, and an articulate spokesperson.

He was also a very strong policy advisor on numerous issues in the department ranging from FDS to NIH to Medicare to welfare reform.

Tom was always a voice of reason – he listens to all sides and tries to find a solution that is viewed as absolutely fair.

I found him to be a man of great personal integrity, thoughtfulness and fairness, with a deep respect for the law and the Constitution.

I strongly and warmly recommend him for confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DES", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Donna E. Shalala

DES:om

Office of the President  
P.O. Box 248006  
Coral Gables, Florida 33124-4600  
305-284-5155  
Fax: 305-284-3768

April 21, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman  
433 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-4502

The Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-3802

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

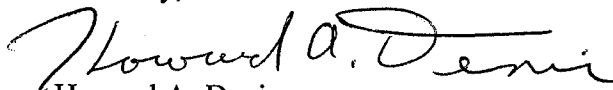
In advance of Senate Judiciary confirmation hearings, I write to respectfully express my strong support for Tom Perez to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Department of Justice.

Tom Perez and I served together as colleagues on the Montgomery County Council in Maryland for 4 years. We held field hearings together, and it was my honor to support his winning bid to become president of the Council. Tom served with great distinction! I have the utmost respect for his integrity, leadership, and personal skills.

Though we belong to different political parties, Tom Perez and I worked together closely, and formed a strong bond of friendship which continues.

I am certain that Tom Perez will serve our country with great effectiveness at the Department of Justice, and respectfully urge prompt and favorable action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Howard A. Denis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and contact information.

Howard A. Denis  
4515 Willard Ave. #2109S  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
(301) 656-3682  
deniswise@comcast.net

# MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

*Louis W. Sullivan, M.D.  
President Emeritus*

April 21, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman  
433 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: **Nomination of Thomas E. Perez to Serve As Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights**

Dear Chairman Leahy:

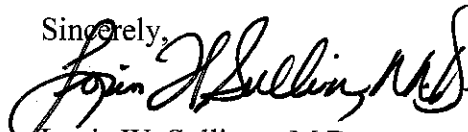
I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Thomas Perez to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice. I believe that Mr. Perez is an excellent candidate for this critical position and has the ideal combination of experience, extensive federal civil rights service under both Republican and Democratic administrations, critical leadership and management skills, and a sense of fairness.

I have worked with Mr. Perez for the past six years in my capacity as Chair of the Sullivan Commission on Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce. Mr. Perez served on this nonpartisan panel, and we held field hearings across the country and developed a blueprint for expanding access to quality health care in underserved communities by increasing diversity in the health professions. I was struck by Mr. Perez's deep knowledge of the legal and policy issues, his sound judgment and passion for the underserved. He was actively engaged in the issues, creative in his thinking, and always interested in ensuring that a wide range of views were heard.

As the former U.S. Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services under President George H.W. Bush, I have an acute awareness of what it takes to run a large agency effectively. Among other things, it is critically important to have senior leaders within the agency who know the subject matter, are well regarded nationally and by the career staff, and can develop a vision for the agency, work collaboratively, and manage effectively. Tom Perez is a nationally recognized civil rights lawyer who enjoys an impeccable reputation as someone who is knowledgeable, inclusive, effective and even-handed.

He is an ideal nominee for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, and I urge the Committee to act favorably on this nomination.

Sincerely,



Louis W. Sullivan, M.D.







Maryland's First  
Nationally Accredited  
Sheriff's Office



**Raymond M. Kight**  
*Sheriff*

**Darren M. Popkin**  
*Chief Deputy*

50 Maryland Avenue • Rockville, Maryland 20850 • 240-777-7000 • 240-777-7148 Fax

April 21, 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Recommendation for Thomas E. Perez

Dear Senator Leahy:

I first met Tom Perez following his election to the Montgomery County (Md.) Council in 2002. At that time I was not familiar with his distinguished career as a federal prosecutor, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, and law school professor. But between 2002 and 2006, as Montgomery County Sheriff, I was fortunate to be able to work with Tom on numerous public safety and fiscal matters affecting the operation of the Sheriff's Office.

I became impressed with Tom's ability to quickly assess the nuances of complex law enforcement, budgetary and employment law issues. He addressed public policy issues with fairness, and in a manner that recognized and balanced the diverse positions involved in governmental decision making.

Tom's appointment as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation gave him an opportunity to use his expertise to confront problems generated by the current housing foreclosure crisis. Again he was able to craft legislative solutions that recognized and successfully addressed the respective concerns of consumers and commercial interests.

Speaking as a lifelong law enforcement officer and official, I would be delighted to witness Tom's confirmation and swearing in as the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice.

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Recommendation for Thomas E. Perez  
April 21, 2009  
Page 2 of 2

Please accept my appreciation for your consideration of my views on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond M. Kight". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raymond" being more prominent.

Raymond M. Kight  
Montgomery County Sheriff

cc:  
The Honorable Arlen Specter  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-6502**  
April 21, 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter,

I strongly support for the nomination of Thomas Perez for Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and I urge his speedy confirmation. Currently leading Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Secretary Perez has shown outstanding leadership throughout his career at all levels of government.

I have worked with Secretary Perez on many critical issues, and I consider him an excellent choice for the Civil Rights Division. He has already served there in a variety of key positions. As a prosecutor in the Division, he was the lead attorney in many high-profile civil rights cases. As Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, he oversaw complex litigation in the employment and education areas. As a member of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, as well as the former Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services, Secretary Perez would also bring to his new role a deep understanding of health care disparities. In my state of Maryland, Secretary Perez led a 1,600-employee department and was the principal architect of Governor O'Malley's wide-ranging foreclosure prevention initiative. Secretary Perez also negotiated written agreements with major mortgage servicing companies to provide relief to homeowners facing foreclosure.

Leading the Civil Rights Division requires high-level management and consensus-building skills. I am confident that Secretary Perez possesses those skills, and I urge you to confirm his nomination.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

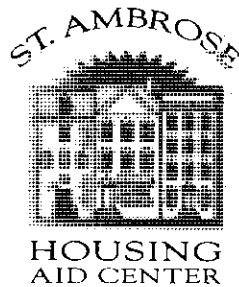
STENY H. HOYER

**MAJORITY LEADER OFFICE:**  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3130  
(202) 226-0663 (FAX)  
<http://majorityleader.house.gov>

**WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:**  
1705 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4131  
(202) 225-4300 (FAX)  
<http://www.hoyer.house.gov>

**GREENBELT DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT HOUSE  
6500 CHERRYWOOD LANE, SUITE 310  
GREENBELT, MD 20770  
(301) 474-0119  
(301) 474-4697 (FAX)

**WALDORF DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
401 POST OFFICE ROAD, #202  
WALDORF, MD 20602  
(301) 843-1577  
(301) 843-1331 (FAX)



April 22, 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter,

It is an honor to submit for your review this letter in support of the nomination of Thomas Perez for Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice.

St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, Inc. is a HUD-certified non-profit housing agency founded in 1968 and a charter member of Neighborworks America. We first had the pleasure of working with Tom Perez, as Maryland Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, during his tenure as co-chair of the Homeownership Preservation Task Force convened in June 2007 to address the escalating foreclosure rates in Maryland. Through his leadership, members of the financial services sector, private bar, consumer advocates and other stakeholders engaged in robust and extensive debate that ultimately led to considerable consensus in reaching recommendations to find solutions. The recommendations resulted in sweeping bipartisan revisions to the Maryland foreclosure process and the enactment of common sense reforms to curb mortgage lending abuse in Maryland. His role as co-chair of the Task Force was the first in a series of successful initiatives brought about in order to preserve sustainable homeownership throughout Maryland.

Mr. Perez has taken an active role in addressing the current foreclosure crisis through decisive and coordinated actions. He met with members of our staff and with other non-profit housing counselors, homeowners facing foreclosure and victimized by foreclosure rescue fraud, as well as representatives from the mortgage banking industry to discuss emerging issues and obstacles facing each sector. Mr. Perez convened



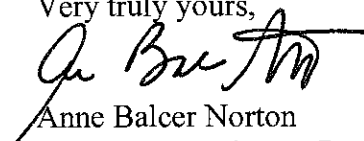
representatives from key mortgage loan servicers in order to identify areas in which servicers would agree to respond to requests for loss mitigation from Maryland homeowners within given parameters. His actions led to increased dialogue and opened the doors of communication between homeowners in Maryland and the mortgage servicers so that all parties can negotiate loss mitigation through fair and meaningful dialogue. Mr. Perez further recognized the need to increase capacity across the state in order to assist homeowners facing foreclosure through private legal counsel. He approached the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, the Honorable Robert Bell, to engage the judiciary and private bar in a broad scale pro bono assistance project. As a result of this unprecedented initiative, more than 800 private attorneys from across Maryland have volunteered pro bono assistance for homeowners facing foreclosure.

Under his leadership, Mr. Perez has called on his office to identify and prevent mortgage foreclosure rescue scams and swiftly respond to financial fraud. He has worked tirelessly to strengthen laws and enforcement, coordinate and expand public and private resources and to directly reach out to communities in distress across Maryland. While the above-described efforts illustrate his tireless commitment to social justice, they barely touch on the achievements that have resulted from his role as Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation in Maryland, including workforce development, adult education, job training and immigration services. Tom Perez is a committed public servant and inspired leader.

Those who have had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Perez are inspired by his leadership and commitment to justice. He is committed to public service and has the acute ability to work cooperatively with all sides of a given issue to effectuate positive change and lasting reform.

On behalf of the clients that we serve, it is an honor to request that this Committee act favorably on the nomination of Thomas Perez.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Balcer Norton", written over a horizontal line.

Anne Balcer Norton  
Director, Foreclosure Prevention  
St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

1707 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5341

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
51 MONROE STREET, #507  
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6475 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE  
HYATTSVILLE, MD 20783  
(301) 891-6982

[www.vanhollen.house.gov](http://www.vanhollen.house.gov)

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

April 22, 2009

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

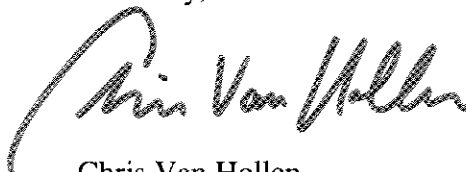
I am writing to offer my wholehearted support for the confirmation of Thomas E. Perez as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. I've known Tom since 2002, and have had both the honor of serving as his representative to Congress and the privilege of having him serve as my representative to the Montgomery County Council.

I have seen firsthand Tom's ability to bridge divides and build coalitions in the interest of advancing the common good. Throughout his service to the people of Montgomery County and Maryland, this ability has gained him strong support from the business community as well as the nonprofit and faith communities. It has also allowed him to successfully spearhead the State's nation-leading efforts to combat the foreclosure crisis. He has a proven track record for making decisions based on input from all stakeholders, and for being open to all opinions even when they differ from his own.

Prior to his service to his community and his state, Tom served this country ably as a career attorney in the Civil Rights Division. His knowledge of the law and his respect for the Department of Justice as an institution guarantee that he will lead the Division with integrity and with respect for the career staff and their tireless work. His talent for building coalitions makes him a natural to reinvigorate the Division.

Tom is an outstanding citizen and a devoted public official who has served his county, his state and his country with distinction. I am honored to ask you to support his nomination.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen



CONGRESSIONAL  
ASIAN  
PACIFIC  
AMERICAN  
CAUCUS

**Executive Board**

**Chair**  
Rep. Michael M. Honda

**Vice-Chair**  
Rep. Eni Faleomavaega

**Secretary**  
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Sen. Daniel K. Akaka  
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Rep. Anh Joseph Cao  
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Congressman Michael M. Honda • 1713 Longworth HOB • Washington, D.C. 20515  
Tel: 202.225.2631 • Fax: 202.225.2699 • [honda.house.gov/capac](http://honda.house.gov/capac)

April 22, 2009

Chairman Patrick J. Leahy  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
226 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Arlen Specter  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
226 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter,

The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) is committed to the full civic participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and underserved populations throughout our government and society. To that end, CAPAC has been working with the Obama Administration to recommend diverse and talented individuals for Administration positions. As such, we are writing to support the nomination of Tom Perez to be the next Assistant Attorney General of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

Next week, Secretary Perez will appear before your committee and we are hopeful he will be quickly confirmed. Secretary Perez is a nationally recognized civil rights lawyer and consumer advocate and currently serves as the Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR). He assumed leadership of DLLR after the agency had been largely neglected for years, and in particular its ability to enforce labor protections and wage and hour laws had been decimated. Secretary Perez has presided over the renaissance of DLLR. Under his leadership, DLLR recovered a record amount of unpaid wages of behalf of Maryland workers. He has led the effort to address the pernicious practice of misclassification of workers as independent contractors, and helped spearhead passage of the nation's first and only state living wage law. He was also the principal architect of Governor Martin O'Malley's sweeping package of reforms to address the foreclosure crisis in Maryland.

A graduate of Brown University, Harvard Law School and the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Secretary Perez has spent his entire career in public service. From 2002 until 2006, he was a member of the Montgomery County Council. He was the first Latino ever elected to the Council, and served as Council President in 2005.

Secretary Perez spent 12 years in federal public service, the bulk of it at the United States Department of Justice as a federal prosecutor for the Civil Rights Division. He started as a summer clerk in the Civil Rights Division, entered the Division as a career civil rights prosecutor through the Attorney General's Honors Program, and worked his way up to Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under Attorney General Janet Reno.

Secretary Perez also served as Special Counsel to Senator Edward Kennedy, and was Senator Kennedy's principal adviser on civil rights, criminal justice and constitutional issues. For the final two years of the Clinton administration, Secretary Perez served as the Director of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the United States Department of Health and Human Services. At OCR, he transformed the agency from a critically important yet chronically underperforming unit into an office that commanded new respect within and outside the agency, and was far better positioned to carry out its critical mandate of assisting vulnerable people by enforcing civil rights laws.

From 2001 to 2007, Secretary Perez was a law professor at University of Maryland School of Law, including a two year stint as Director of Clinical Law Programs. During his tenure at University of Maryland Law School, he taught a civil rights clinic focusing on employment issues, health law and criminal justice.

Furthermore, Secretary Perez has long been a friend and advocate for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. He has a long record of fighting against national origin discrimination, particularly as it relates to individuals with limited English proficiency. He has also fought for medical language interpretation as a civil rights issue, for comprehensive immigration reforms, and maximizing immigration integration.

Secretary Perez's impressive experience and expertise in the area of civil rights, he is well positioned to represent the Department of Justice as the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division. We feel confident that he will advocate and protect the needs of vulnerable populations and help to rebuild the reputation of the Department of Justice and usher in a renewed era of transparency and fairness under President Obama.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Secretary Perez's nomination.

Sincerely,

  
Michael M. Honda  
Chair, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

April 22, 2009

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

Dear Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Specter and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the confirmation of Thomas E. Perez as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. Tom has devoted his entire career to public service, much of it as a career attorney in the Civil Rights Division, and he has demonstrated his commitment to protecting the rights of all Americans and upholding the law. I saw his work as a career civil servant and later came to rely heavily on his judgment when he served as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

As a prosecutor in the Division, Tom handled some of our most sensitive civil rights cases, including one in Lubbock, Texas, involving a group of white supremacists who went on a racially-motivated killing spree. He went on to become an able manager and member of the Division leadership. His years of service to the Division have given him a deep respect for the work of the career attorneys and for the Division's critical mission.

Tom has a proven ability to bring together competing interests to work toward a common goal. He is both passionate and pragmatic, and he approaches all decisions with a critical eye. Given the current challenges confronting the Division, it is particularly important to have a person at the helm who himself was once a career attorney and has the respect of the career staff. The nomination of Tom to lead the Division sends the important message, both internally and to the outside world, that the protection of Civil Rights is a priority.

Tom was hired into the Honors Program and rose through the ranks with hard work, dedication to the Division's mission and respect for the institution and its people. I know he will be an excellent Assistant Attorney General for the Division, and I encourage his swift confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janet Reno".

Janet Reno



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF LAW

April 22, 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Spencer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Spencer:

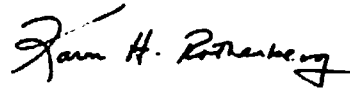
As Dean of the University of Maryland School of Law, I write to express my strong support for the nomination of Thomas Perez for Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice and urge his confirmation.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with Tom Perez since 2001 when I recruited him to join our faculty and serve as the Director of our Clinical Law Program. While at our law school, his teaching focused on employment issues, criminal justice, and the intersection of health care and civil rights with a specific focus on how to use civil rights tools to enhance access to health care for vulnerable populations. More specifically, he created the "Civil Rights: Access to Health Care for Vulnerable Populations" clinic which allowed students to address health care challenges in a variety of health care contexts, including litigation, administrative advocacy, and legislative advocacy. Although he left the law school fulltime to return to public service, first as a member of the Montgomery County Council and then to state government, he continues to be an active partner in a number of our public interest initiatives.

Based on his extensive experiences in federal, state and local government, Secretary Perez has an acute understanding of the need for the federal government to work in partnership with state and local governments to safeguard the civil rights of all Americans. His legal, management and leadership skills, as well as his talent in creating coalitions, has earned him the reputation as a most effective consensus builder. These are all qualities that I believe are critical for the success of the next leader of the Civil Rights Division.

Thomas Perez's distinguished career demonstrates his vast leadership ability, integrity and commitment to public service. I am confident that he would make an exceptional Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division and urge you to confirm his nomination. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karen H. Rothenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" being the most prominent.

Karen H. Rothenberg, J.D., M.P.A.  
Dean  
Marjorie Cook Professor of Law

KHR/tr



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April 22, 2009

FAX 202.224.9516

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

AS President/CEO of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to support the nomination of Thomas E. Perez for the position of Assistant U.S. Attorney General for Civil Rights.

During his tenure as Maryland's Secretary for the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, I found Mr. Perez to be outstanding in his ability to listen to both sides of an issue, seeking out opinions different than his own and providing opportunities for thorough discussion. He has a very high degree of ethics and personal integrity.

Tom has committed his entire career to public service, most of it as a prosecutor in the Civil Rights Division. I believe he would do the country a great service in this position as Assistant U.S. Attorney General for Civil Rights.

For these reasons, I support his nomination and urge your confirmation.

Sincerely,

Kathleen T. Snyder, CCE  
President/CEO

cc Senator Arlen Specter, Ranking Committee Member



Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce  
51 Monroe Street, Suite 1800, Rockville, MD 20850  
301-738-0015 phone • 301-738-8792 fax • [www.montgomerycountychamber.com](http://www.montgomerycountychamber.com)

April 22, 2009

The Honorable Senator Patrick Leahy  
433 Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

On behalf of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, I write to express our support for the nomination of Thomas E. Perez for the position of Assistant US Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Having served as both a member of the Montgomery County Council, and later as the Maryland Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Mr. Perez will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to this new post. Throughout his career, Mr. Perez has been a dedicated public servant with a passion for civil rights issues. In December of 2004, Mr. Perez became the first Latino to ever hold the position of President of the Montgomery County Council.

In our close partnership with Mr. Perez in his time as a County and State elected official, he has always demonstrated the intellect, integrity and dedication to hold a job of this stature and we urge you to confirm his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Georgette Godwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Georgette "Gigi" Godwin  
President and CEO  
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER, JR.  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



MICHAEL E. BUSCH  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
STATE HOUSE  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

April 22, 2009

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

Dear Chairman Leahy:

We write to offer an unqualified and unhesitating endorsement of Thomas Perez's nomination to serve as Director of the United States Department of Justice's Office for Civil Rights. We know Mr. Perez to be a passionate and tireless advocate, a dedicated and responsible civil servant, and a thoughtful and respected leader. He will be a tremendous asset to the Department of Justice.

Mr. Perez was appointed to serve as Maryland's Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation in January, 2007. He inherited a historically underfunded agency beset by political challenges and morale problems – a weaker leader could easily have been overwhelmed by the agency's inertia. Where others might have seen problems, Mr. Perez saw opportunity. From his first day as Secretary, Mr. Perez breathed new life into the department with a goal-oriented agenda and a commitment to pro-active, results-driven management.

The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation supervises job training and match services, unemployment insurance, and many of the State's licensing and regulatory boards. As Secretary, Mr. Perez had to balance the interests of the business community against our State's commitment to consumer protection. That can be a precarious tightrope, but he won praise from business leaders and consumer advocates for his willingness to listen and his ability to forge consensus.

In addition to his responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the agency, Mr. Perez helped shepherd the Governor's agenda through the General Assembly. He conducted himself with grace and aplomb, confronting skeptics and cynics with his earnest desire to improve the lives of ordinary Marylanders. His work ethic and meticulous attention to the details of policy-making earned him the trust of lawmakers across the political spectrum, and he parlayed that trust into extraordinary legislative success for working families in our state.

Mr. Perez championed Maryland's efforts to combat the foreclosure crisis. He brought the banking industry together with consumer advocates to craft meaningful reform that put Maryland at the forefront of this critical issue. During this year's legislative session, he brought labor organizations together with industry groups to fight fraudulent misclassification of employees as independent contractors. In both instances, he won praise for bringing everyone to the table and crafting compromises which might otherwise have proved elusive.

We would be remiss if we did not raise the time honored cliché: the nation's gain will be the State of Maryland's loss. Mr. Perez's unwavering obligation to the highest ideal of public service will be an asset to the Department of Justice. His untiring commitment to his work will earn him respect and admiration from his colleagues. His innate intelligence and problem-solving abilities will help him move the Office of Civil Rights forward to the benefit of all Americans.

In the plainest and strongest terms possible, we urge you to confirm Mr. Perez as Director of the Office of Civil Rights. He is a remarkable public servant, and he will be an exceptional asset to our nation during this tumultuous period in our history.

Respectfully,



Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.



Michael E. Busch

CC: The Honorable Arlen Specter



**State of New Jersey**  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**PO Box 080**  
**TRENTON NJ 08625-0080**

**JON S. CORZINE**  
*Governor*

**ANNE MILGRAM**  
*Attorney General*

April 23, 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chair, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

I am writing to express my support for the nomination of Thomas E. Perez for Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. Mr. Perez is exceptionally qualified to lead the Division, possessing demonstrated and impeccable legal, management, and leadership skills.

I served in the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section, from 2001 to 2005, and I remain engaged with the Department through participation in the Executive Working Group. Currently, as Attorney General for the State of New Jersey, I am the chief law enforcement officer in the State, with a mandate to enforce the State's civil rights and criminal laws. I know Mr. Perez to be a committed, dedicated, and highly effective advocate and prosecutor. I look forward to working with Mr. Perez in addressing shared federal and state civil rights priorities.

Mr. Perez will bring a breadth of advocacy, policy, and leadership experience to the Division. He has had a distinguished career in the Department of Justice, serving in several roles in the Division. He has prosecuted civil rights cases in the Criminal Section and, as the Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, oversaw the Division's complex criminal, education, and employment litigation. Since leaving the Department, Mr. Perez has continued his commitment to public service as a faculty member at the



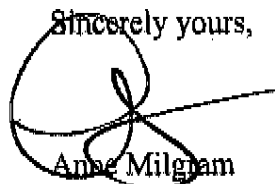
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman  
The Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member

April 23, 2009  
Page 2 of 2

University of Maryland School of Law and a member of the Montgomery County Council. In his current capacity as Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation in Maryland, Mr. Perez has gained valuable experience and insights into the priorities and workings of state government, which complements his considerable federal and local leadership experience.

For these reasons, I am pleased to recommend Mr. Perez to the Committee.  
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

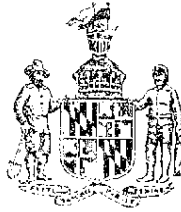


Anne Milgram  
Attorney General

ANTHONY J. O'DONNELL  
*Legislative District 29C*  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

House Minority Leader

Environmental Matters Committee



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 212  
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410-841-3314 • 301-858-3314  
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*District Office*  
P. O. Box 865  
Solomons, Maryland 20688  
Voice 410-326-0081  
Fax 410-326-9169

April 23, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

As Minority Leader of the Maryland House of Delegates, I am pleased to support the nomination of Thomas Perez for the position of Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

In my dealings with Secretary Perez, I have always found him to be fair-minded and willing to listen to a variety of views on an issue. While we have not always agreed ultimately, I have been impressed by his willingness to reach across the aisle. That is one reason I believe Tom Perez is an excellent choice to lead the Division of Civil Rights at the Department of Justice.

During Secretary Perez's tenure at the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, he has convened diverse groups of stakeholders on the foreclosure crisis, adult education and workforce training, and the misclassification of Maryland workers to forge consensus and find common ground. During the legislative session, he regularly seeks input from both Democratic and Republican members of the Maryland General Assembly. He also has been very responsive to my office regarding constituent issues and helping to resolve the same without regard to party.

It is my belief that the reason Tom works so hard to find comprehensive solutions to the everyday problems Americans face because he truly has their best interests at heart. He is a committed public servant. I am confident that Tom will lead the Division with commitment and integrity.

For those reasons, I support his nomination and strongly urge his confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony J. O'Donnell".

Anthony J. O'Donnell  
Minority Leader



April 23, 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Nomination of Thomas Perez as Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

I am writing to express our strong support for the nomination of Thomas Perez for Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice and urge his confirmation. I am the President of Maryland AGC, which is the state chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, a national trade association for commercial constructors and suppliers.

We do not presume to judge Mr. Perez's credentials as a civil rights lawyer, but we do have a firm and high opinion of his capabilities as a leader and government official. His most recent position as Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation brought him and his department into close contact with our industry. In that capacity, we dealt most closely with him and his leadership team on legislation to address the issue of employees being misclassified as independent contractors by employers seeking to avoid their obligations for payroll taxes and workers' compensation. As Secretary, Mr. Perez convened and led a large task force that included all interested parties with the objective of arriving at a consensus position on legislation to address the misclassification issue. As you might expect, there were strongly held points of view and embedded animosities among the various factions involved.

Because the construction industry was an area where misclassification was of great concern, we participated in the task force and in the legislative activity that followed earlier this year. As a result, I had the opportunity to work closely with Secretary Perez over the past ten months, in private meetings, as well as task force sessions and legislative hearings. During the entire process, Secretary Perez demonstrated a penetrating intellect, strong commitment to the workers of Maryland, the ability to reconcile competing interests, and discerning judgment of what was achievable. On most issues, we were able to reach mutually satisfactory compromises. Where we were not, he was an articulate, well-informed, and persuasive advocate for his point of view. Frankly, we lost more issues than we won in the areas where we disagreed.

Without fail, Mr. Perez conducted himself with integrity, rigorous attachment to facts, and an unwavering focus on the public interest he served. He managed all of this with modesty, good humor, and a genuine, if disarming, candor. Even more telling, the rest of the senior executives in his Department grew to reflect those values in their own areas of responsibility, which is the mark of a true leader. In more than 30 years of being involved in the legislative process and interacting with federal and state officials, both elected and appointed, I have not met a person for whom I have greater respect. America will be well served with Mr. Perez as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, and we respectfully urge you to confirm his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Champe C. McCulloch".

Champe C. McCulloch  
President



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

J. Thomas Manger  
Chief of Police

April 23, 2009

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
433 Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

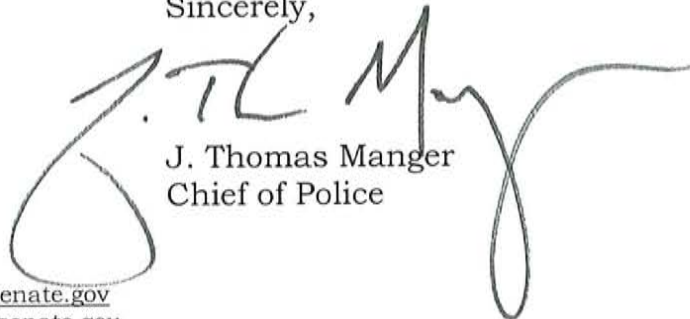
Dear Senators Specter and Leahy:

I am writing to wholeheartedly support the nomination of Thomas Perez for the position of Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. During Mr. Perez's tenure as a Montgomery County (Maryland) Councilman, I was impressed by his integrity, intellect and work ethic. He was a public servant in the truest sense of the word. Mr. Perez brings an ability to tackle complex problems and issues with consensus and common sense.

Mr. Perez is a public-safety advocate and brought his experience as a civil-rights attorney to benefit the Montgomery County Police Department. His assistance in training our senior police officials was very well received.

The Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice requires someone with high ethical standards and a strong legal mind. Mr. Perez superbly fits the bill. I urge you to support his appointment.

Sincerely,



J. Thomas Manger  
Chief of Police

JTM:mam  
c: [Sarah\\_hackett@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Sarah_hackett@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)  
[Elizabeth\\_hays@judiciary-rep@senate.gov](mailto:Elizabeth_hays@judiciary-rep@senate.gov)



**Maryland Bankers Association**

April 23, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

On behalf of the Maryland banking industry, we are pleased to submit this letter in support of President Obama's nomination of Thomas E. Perez for Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division in the United States Department of Justice. The nomination is testimony to Mr. Perez's exceptional experience as a nationally recognized civil rights lawyer and consumer advocate.

The Maryland Bankers Association has worked with Mr. Perez in positions he has held in local and State government, most recently in his role as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR). Included in this cabinet position for Governor Martin O'Malley is the Division of Financial Regulation, which has sought to strengthen the role of the Maryland banking charter to enable Maryland-chartered banks to provide competitive products and services for businesses and consumers. The Division has also strengthened the enforcement authority for the Commissioner of Financial Regulation in providing oversight for those financial entities under State regulation. We have supported all of the efforts.

In addition, we worked closely with Mr. Perez as he spearheaded the Governor's Homeownership Preservation Task Force, which created one of the most comprehensive legislative packages in the Country to address foreclosure and lending practice reform. The task force process was candid, extensive and inclusive and resulted in a package of bills in the Maryland General Assembly which had widespread support, including the support of the Maryland General Assembly. This result on such an important issue is testimony to Mr. Perez's leadership and ability to bring various and often opposing viewpoints together to reach consensus.

We believe Tom Perez will serve the Administration and the Country effectively in the position of Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and submit this letter of support for his appointment to this post. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Murphy  
President and CEO

cc: Senate Arlen Specter, Ranking Committee member

Bcc: Thomas E. Perez, Office of Secretary



Easton Plaza, Suite 53 • 101 Marlboro Avenue • Post Office Box 1366 • Easton, Maryland 21601-1366

Phone: 410-822-4653 • Fax: 410-822-7922

VISIT THE CHAMBER ONLINE: [WWW.TALBOTCHAMBER.ORG](http://WWW.TALBOTCHAMBER.ORG)

April 23, 2009

Senator Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

I am writing on behalf of the Talbot County Maryland Chamber of Commerce to urge your support of the nomination of Tom Perez to become the next Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Department of Justice. During his time as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, we have come to know him and believe that he possesses exactly the qualities needed to excel in this important post.

Talbot County is a rural County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Our Chamber has an impressive array of members, from manufacturers of military drone aircraft to the traditional seafood industry, and they are keenly in tune to how government affects their businesses.

Secretary Perez brought a new dynamism to Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. His efforts to improve Maryland's workforce development system have been supportive of the needs of workers and businesses alike.

We asked Secretary Perez to be the keynote speaker for our annual dinner, and while many of our members did not see eye to eye with him ideologically, he listened intently to their concerns. By the end of the evening, it was clear that he had gained their respect and admiration.

It is our view that Tom Perez will be an excellent Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. He is abundantly qualified, yes, but our membership has had the chance to size him up. It is our view that Tom Perez will serve our country well in the very important post with in the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

*Alan I. Silverstein*

Alan I. Silverstein, IOM  
President & CEO

cc. Senator Arlen Specter, Ranking Member



MARTIN O'MALLEY  
GOVERNOR

ANTHONY G. BROWN  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND  
**MARYLAND STATE POLICE**  
1201 REISTERSTOWN ROAD  
PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208-3899  
410-486-3101  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-525-5555  
TDD: 410-486-0677



COLONEL  
TERRENCE B. SHERIDAN  
SUPERINTENDENT

April 23, 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

I am writing to provide you with a favorable recommendation for Mr. Tom Perez for the position of Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice. I have had the privilege and pleasure of working with Tom Perez for the past two years in his capacity as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (D.L.L.R.). During this time, Tom was instrumental in assisting the Maryland law enforcement community in its seven year endeavor to enactment regulatory legislation which requires secondhand precious metal dealers and pawn brokers to report transactions electronically. Tom's stewardship of this legislation through the General Assembly was key to its passage during the 2009 Legislative Session.

Under Tom's leadership, his D.L.L.R. staff has collaborated with various Maryland law enforcement entities to provide training on the regulatory laws controlling scrap metal, pawn, secondhand precious metal, jewelry and traveling gold shows. Additional educational initiatives directed by Tom toward the industries regulated by his agency have resulted in the affected businesses to become more compliant with the state's regulations and to work more closely with law enforcement. As such, D.L.L.R. and law enforcement have become good partners in enforcing the regulations and laws controlling these industries.

Tom Perez has also been most helpful to the Maryland Department of State Police and the citizens of this state by working closely with businesses who were facing layoffs and downsizing by providing information on recruiting by Maryland Department of the State Police. During these economic times, Tom has shown care and compassion toward those in need of his assistance.

*"Maryland's Finest"*

Senator Patrick Leahy  
April 23, 2009  
Page Two

Tom truly is an honorable man. I would add that Tom has always been fair and honest in our conversations. If he disagreed with a position, he would foster open discussion and listen to opposing viewpoints. In the end, Tom would never allow policy differences interfere or influence a relationship. I believe Tom Perez is an excellent choice for the position of Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice. He is a proven leader who can make a difference and has a long history of ensuring the rights of Americans are protected. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to provide you with my recommendation of Tom Perez for this most important position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrence B. Sheridan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

Terrence B. Sheridan  
Superintendent

TBS:fkc

cc: Senator Arlen Specter



A D V A N C I N G   E Q U A L I T Y

---

April 24, 2009

The Honorable Senator Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
433 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-4502

The Honorable Senator Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-3802

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

On behalf of the Asian American Justice Center (“AAJC”), a national civil rights organization dedicated to advancing and defending the civil rights of Asian Americans, we are writing to support the nomination of Thomas E. Perez for the position of Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at the United States Department of Justice. We have worked closely with Mr. Perez throughout his career as government official and as a private citizen. We believe that he has the qualifications, leadership, intellectual capacity, and commitment necessary for this position.

Founded in 1991, the AAJC (formerly the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium) works to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Americans through advocacy, public policy, public education, and litigation. AAJC is one of the nation’s leading experts on issues of importance to the Asian American community including: affirmative action, anti-Asian violence prevention/race relations, census, English as a second language, health policy, immigrant rights, immigration, language access, television diversity and voting rights.

The Civil Rights Division is in need of strong leadership. The January 2009 Inspector General’s report focused on politicized hiring and other improper personnel actions in the Civil Rights Division makes clear that the next Assistant Attorney General will need to restore the public confidence and return the division to the prominence as the premier protector of civil rights and those most vulnerable. Mr. Perez has a proven track record and the commitment to stabilize and strengthen the division.

Our first interaction with Mr. Perez was when he was working for Senator Kennedy where our affiliate the Asian Pacific American Legal Center was seeking assistance in securing visas for 72 Thai garment workers who were freed from slavery in an El Monte California sweatshop. Mr. Perez worked diligently to ensure our issues were addressed and that the garment workers were not further victimized. As a result of Mr. Perez’s assistance, today those workers are U.S. citizens and their case trail blazed the path to legislation that established visas for victims of human trafficking.

AAJC also worked closely with Mr. Perez in the implementation of Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services by Persons with Limited English Proficiency, during his tenure as Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services. He understood the issues of the Asian American community and was committed to improving the lives of language minorities to ensure they could receive linguistically competent and culturally appropriate access to health care. As a private citizen, we continued to work with Mr. Perez on these issues, where he convened stakeholders to further refine and strategize on improving access.

It is evident from Mr. Perez background that he has a long history in civil rights and a strong ability to manage effectively. We are confident that if confirmed Mr. Perez will restore the Civil Rights Division and uphold the long standing mission to provide equal treatment and equal justice under the law by enforcing and defending the civil rights of all Americans in areas such as education, employment, housing, voting, criminal justice, and public accommodations.

We ask that Mr. Perez be confirmed with all deliberate speed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karen K. Narasaki". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "K".

Karen K. Narasaki  
President and Executive Director

LEWIS, FEINBERG, LEE, RENAKER & JACKSON, P.C.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
1330 BROADWAY, SUITE 1800  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612-2519



April 24, 2009

Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Minority Member, Senate Judiciary  
Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Thomas E. Perez**

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Specter:

In addition to joining the joint letter of former Assistant Attorneys General for Civil Rights dated April 20, 2009, I add a few personal reasons for supporting the confirmation of Thomas E. Perez in this separate letter.

Initially, however, I believe that Mr. Perez's background as a career lawyer in the Civil Rights Division is particularly important at this juncture because of the need to restore civil rights enforcement and to rebuild the capacity and morale among the Division's nonpartisan career lawyers. As a former line lawyer, Mr. Perez is uniquely qualified to lead the career staff. He knows the Division's traditions and has broad policy experience. He will be able to respond to the President's call for the Civil Rights Division to reinvigorate the enforcement of the nation's civil rights laws.

His service on Senator Edward Kennedy's staff and his years-long work on hate crimes legislation will serve him well in working with this Committee. I believe that Mr. Perez will collaborate well with the Committee in making sure that the Division fulfills its full potential as a law enforcement agency within the statutory mandates that the Congress has provided.

When he was Deputy Assistant Attorney, I saw Mr. Perez on a daily basis as he oversaw the work of the Division's Criminal, Employment and Education Sections. I believe that his work as a Deputy suggests the kind of Assistant Attorney General he will be. These sections are a cross-section of the Division's functional groupings. Mr. Perez showed a rare ability to engage the leadership and lawyers of these sections on case-level enforcement issues while also providing big picture guidance on policy issues. Mr. Perez has a light touch on management issues that goes along with his keen intelligence. He is an inspiring speaker. I have no doubt that he will be a superb leader.

Patrick Leahy and Arlen Specter

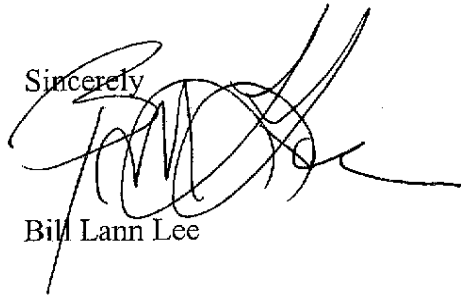
April 24, 2009

Page 2

Mr. Perez is much more than an insider. After leaving the Division, he has attained a broad range of experience in a variety of areas, director of the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services, law professor, president and member of the Montgomery County Council, and Maryland Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. I believe that this broad range of experience will enable him to enforce the civil rights laws wisely and with sensitivity.

I hope these comments are useful to the Committee. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely



Bill Lann Lee



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF AMERICA**

April 24, 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman  
The Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
SD-224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6275

Dear Senator Leahy and Senator Specter:

I am writing to express support for the nomination of Tom Perez to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. Mr Perez has dedicated almost his entire professional life to public services including protecting civil rights and advocating for fair labor practices.

Mr Perez spent 12 years in federal public service, the bulk of it at the United States Department of Justice as a federal prosecutor for the Civil Rights Division. He began his career as a summer clerk in the Civil Rights Division and with dedication and commitment worked his way up to Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under Attorney General Janet Reno.

As Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) Mr. Perez took an agency that had long been neglected and was widely viewed as ineffective. Under his leadership he has transformed DLLR into a national model that is widely viewed as highly effective and respected amongst lawmakers and other officials.

Whether it was as Montgomery County Council member, Deputy Assistant Attorney General or Secretary DLLR Mr. Perez has shown a passion and commitment for the extension of after school programming as well as job training and career readiness opportunities for youth. Mr. Perez also understands the importance of keeping kids safe by giving them a safe and fun place to go like a Boys & Girls Club. He recognizes the role Clubs play in preventing crime and giving all kids, no matter the background an opportunity to grow up to be happy, healthy and productive adults.

At Boys & Girls Clubs of America, we are striving to help America's youth reach their full potential and to do so in a safe environment. We believe that Mr. Perez's past history with us and his commitment to protecting civil rights and providing career readiness skills to the young people who need it most will make him a strong, effective Assistant Attorney General. That is why Boys & Girls Clubs of America wholeheartedly supports his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Kevin R. McCartney  
Senior Vice President Government Relations



171 Conduit Street, Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 269-1440 • Fax (410) 269-0325 • [www.mdra.org](http://www.mdra.org)

April 24, 2009

Chairman Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

I am writing to you in support of the appointment of Thomas Perez by the President of the United States to head the Civil Rights Division of the U. S. Justice Department. I have worked with Secretary Perez on various issues during his tenure as the Maryland Secretary of Labor and Licensing and I have found him to be reasonable, open-minded and willing to work issues toward a consensus favorable to all parties. Also as a former sitting Judge I find his demeanor and temperament excellent for the position to which he has been appointed.

Secretary Perez has committed his entire career to public service, most of it as a prosecutor in the Civil Rights Division. Tom's commitment to advancing civil rights of all Americans and his devotion to the mission of the Division, make him uniquely qualified to lead the Division.

I ask that you and your Committee support the appointment of Tom Perez as head of the Civil Rights Division of the U. S. Justice Department. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrie Zellmer", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jeffrie Zellmer  
Legislative Director



NAACP Maryland State Conference  
P.O. Box 67747  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

On behalf of the Maryland State NAACP, home of our nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization, I strongly urge you to support the nomination of Thomas E. Perez. Tom Perez is a nationally recognized civil rights lawyer and consumer advocate who serves as the Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR). Under his leadership, DLLR recovered a record amount of unpaid wages of behalf of Maryland workers. He has led the effort to address the pernicious practice of misclassification of workers as independent contractors, and helped spearhead passage of the nation's first and only state living wage law. He was also the principal architect of Governor Martin O'Malley's sweeping package of reforms to address the foreclosure crisis in Maryland.

I have worked with Tome from his days as a member of the Montgomery County (MD) Council and I know that he has committed his entire to career to public service. When working with our community he speaks of serving as Special Counsel to Senator Edward Kennedy; and of working for the Clinton administration, serving as the Director of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Also, of particular significance, Tom has served as a federal prosecutor for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

Equally impressive as Tom's credentials and experience are his personal and lifelong commitment to helping and serving those who are often underserved. Tom has shown himself to be thoughtful, fair and judicious. On behalf of the Maryland State NAACP, we strongly urge your support of his nomination.

Respectfully,

  
Elbridge G. James  
Chair, Political Action  
And Legislative Advocate  
Maryland State NAACP.

# Easton Bank & Trust

*R. Michael S. Menzies, Sr.*

PRESIDENT / CEO

Office: 410-819-5880

Home: 410-770-5011

Car: 410-924-3904

Fax: 410-819-8091

e-mail: mmenzies@eastonbankandtrust.com

April 24, 2009

The Honorable Senator Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, United States Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

Mr. Thomas Perez, Esquire of Maryland has been nominated to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Mr. Perez has served as Secretary of our Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation and has proven to be a strong advocate for the little guy. As the President of a Community Bank I value that attribute. Mr. Perez has worked with consumer groups and banking industry representatives to derive win/win solutions for all stakeholders. Most recently he worked to design strategies to deal with foreclosure issues in Maryland. Mr. Perez is a good listener and advocates for both labor and industry.

Please accept my support of the nomination of Mr. Thomas E. Perez to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Sincerely,



R. Michael S. Menzies  
President  
Easton Bank and Trust  
501 Idlewild Avenue  
Easton, Md. 21601  
410-819-5880

Chairman  
Independent Community Bankers of America

Cc: The Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member  
United States Senate Judiciary Committee



501 Idlewild Ave. P.O. Box 629 Easton, MD 21601  
410-819-0300 FAX 410-819-8091

Member FDIC



**Janet Murguía**  
President and CEO

**National Office**  
Raul Yzaguirre Building  
1126 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: 202.785.1670  
Fax: 202.776.1792  
[www.nclr.org](http://www.nclr.org)

April 24, 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

On behalf of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, I write in strong support for the confirmation of Tom Perez to be the next Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice.

NCLR has worked closely with Mr. Perez throughout his distinguished career in public service. Currently serving as Secretary of Labor for the State of Maryland, he is unquestionably one of the most dedicated and talented leaders in the Latino community and in the civil rights arena.

He has served with distinction in local, state, and federal government and has a long and successful track record on helping to ensure and protect the civil rights of all Americans. As Special Counsel to Senator Ted Kennedy, he was the Senator's principal advisor on civil rights and criminal justice issues. At the U.S. Department of Justice, he rose from prosecutor in the Civil Rights Division—during which he supervised the prosecution of a landmark hate crime case involving White supremacists and the African American community in Texas—to Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under Attorney General Janet Reno.

He was subsequently appointed Director of the Office of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the Clinton administration where, as a strong advocate for cultural competence in all HHS programs, he helped to secure Executive Order 13166 which significantly improved access to services for people with limited English proficiency. As a member, and later President, of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors from 2002 to

2006, he led efforts to make health care more accessible to the county's residents, including the uninsured, and securing discounted prescription benefits.

Mr. Perez is also deeply committed to inclusion and diversity and has been a strong supporter of Latino and other civil rights organizations. He has served on numerous boards, including that of CASA de Maryland, the leading Latino organization in Maryland and a prominent NCLR Affiliate.

In short, NCLR believes that Tom Perez's remarkable breadth of experience at—and ability to work with—all levels of government, his profound intellect, strong principles, and commitment to fairness, justice, and excellence will be a formidable asset to both the Department of Justice and to the administration. We hope you will give Mr. Perez every consideration for this critically important post.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Murguía". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of "Janet" being a large, stylized capital "J".

Janet Murguía  
President and CEO



April 24, 2009

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

Re: Thomas E. Perez

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of members of People For the American Way, we write in strong support of Thomas E. Perez who has been nominated for the position of Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. As his record and background demonstrate, Mr. Perez is eminently qualified for this position, and we strongly urge his prompt confirmation.

As you know, the role of the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department, together with Attorney General Eric Holder, is that of enforcer of the nation's federal civil rights laws. Without a firm commitment to upholding these laws, weak enforcement of them would put every major civil rights law in this country in jeopardy, including laws prohibiting employment discrimination in the public sector under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin or disability, and laws under the Voting Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and others.

We have seen in years past how a lack of commitment and sensitivity to these laws can have a direct impact on the effectiveness of the Civil Rights Division. For example, during John Ashcroft's tenure as Attorney General under former President George W. Bush, the Department filed a dismal average of three Title VII cases a year. In comparison, during the Reagan, Bush Sr., and Clinton administrations, the Justice Department averaged between 12 and 14 Title VII cases per year. We believe that with Mr. Perez as head of the Civil Rights Division this part of history will not repeat itself.

Mr. Perez has demonstrated that he has an in-depth understanding of and commitment to civil rights law and policy and is, without question, a career civil rights lawyer and public servant. Not only does he have 12 years of experience in federal public service, he spent the first ten years of his legal career in the Civil Rights Division itself prosecuting cases of misconduct and racial violence, including a fatal hate crimes case in Lubbock, Texas involving a group of white supremacists, a case involving the founder of a neo-Nazi organization who recruited boys to engage in racially motivated criminal activity, and a number of police brutality and misconduct cases. In addition, he later served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under

Attorney General Janet Reno, where he worked to implement laws and policies in the civil rights arena.

In his subsequent work as Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), he led the enforcement of civil rights laws at the agency to ensure that health providers and others comply with federal civil rights laws. Specifically, he worked to prevent racial discrimination in health care and discrimination in welfare to work programs based on race, disability or national origin. At HHS, he also established a guidance policy on the responsibilities of health and human service providers to provide those with limited English skills meaningful access to critical health and social services. These experiences and more cannot be paralleled and are only a small sample of what Mr. Perez has accomplished in his career to promote and protect our fundamental civil rights.

In sum, Mr. Perez is a committed civil rights advocate who could not be more qualified to lead the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department. He has demonstrated a deep commitment to the rule of law and to core constitutional values of liberty, equality, and justice for all. We urge his prompt confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marge Baker".

Marge Baker  
Executive Vice President for Policy and Program Planning



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

April 24, 2009

1807  
University of  
Maryland,  
Baltimore

1856  
University of  
Maryland,  
College Park

1865  
Bowie State  
University

1866  
Towson University

1886  
University of  
Maryland,  
Eastern Shore

1898  
Frostburg State  
University

1900  
Coppin State  
University

1925  
Salisbury University

1925  
University of  
Baltimore

1925  
University of  
Maryland  
Center for  
Environmental  
Science

1947  
University of  
Maryland  
University College

1966  
University of  
Maryland,  
Baltimore County

1985  
University of  
Maryland  
Biotechnology  
Institute

Chairman Patrick Leahy,  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to offer my unconditional support for President Barak Obama's nomination of The Honorable Tom Perez as the Assistant Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.

As Chancellor of the University System of Maryland (USM) I have had the opportunity to interact and work with Tom in a variety of capacities ranging from his service as a member of the Montgomery County Council to his leadership as Maryland's Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR).

As Secretary of DLLR, Tom took on the significant challenge of revamping an agency that had been long neglected and was widely seen as ineffective. Since becoming Secretary in 2007, Tom has helped the agency gain stature, and has made it one that is well-respected by lawmakers and other officials.

As I am sure you are aware Tom also served as Special Counsel to Senator Edward Kennedy, and was Senator Kennedy's principal adviser on civil rights, criminal justice and constitutional issues. Tom also served in President Clinton's Administration as the Director of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the United States Department of Health and Human Services. At OCR, Perez transformed the agency from a critically important yet chronically underperforming unit into an office that commanded new respect within and outside the agency, and was far better positioned to carry out its critical mandate of assisting vulnerable people by enforcing civil rights laws.

We are very proud Tom's tireless work in the areas of civil rights, adult literacy, workforce training, and economic advancement on behalf of the citizens of Maryland. We at USM also take special pride in the fact that Tom was a member of our faculty at

the University of Maryland, School of Law, including Director of Clinical Law Programs.

Tom's commitment to advancing the civil rights of all Americans, and his devotion to the mission of the Division, make him uniquely qualified to lead the Civil Rights Division. I commend President Obama on the selection of Tom Perez for this position and ask for your support of his Senate confirmation.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. E. Kirwan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot above the "i" in "Kirwan".

William Kirwan  
Chancellor



# COLLECTIVE BANKING GROUP, INC.

## Board of Directors

**Rev. Dr. Kerry Hill**  
President

Rev. Timothy Agbeja  
Rev. Marcellous Buckner  
Rev. Wayne Bumbry  
Rev. Nathan Butler, Sr.  
Bishop Diana Dunn  
Rev. Andrea Foster  
Rev. Dr. Leonard Hamlin  
Rev. Coletta Jones  
Elder James Jordan  
Rev. Anthony Maclin  
Rev. Don Massey  
Rev. Dr. Conrad Pridgen  
Rev. Stephen Tucker  
Bishop Paul Wells

Rev. Dr. Diane Johnson  
Executive Director

Mr. Midgett Parker  
Legal Counsel

April 26, 2009

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

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Collective Banking Group, Inc., (CBG) it is my great honor to provide a recommendation for Secretary Tom Perez for the position of Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

The mission of the CBG is to establish covenant relationships with member churches and partnerships with financial institutions and other organizations for economic empowerment.

Christian Ministry, the CBG was established in 1995 as a result of concerns raised by pastors and church members in Prince George's County regarding inequitable access to services provided by local banks. Today, with over 150 member churches, the CBG partners with 3 area banks, and nearly 20 businesses and organizations that provide a wide range of financial, business and economic empowerment services to our members and congregations.

Secretary Perez has been a staunch advocate for the civil and human rights of residents of Prince George's County and throughout the state of Maryland. He has been a leader in the state's efforts to combat the foreclosure crisis, working to bring an end to predatory lending practices, and to protecting the rights of homeowners. We were proud to work with his office to provide crucial foreclosure prevention information to thousands in the state.

A committed public servant, Secretary Perez is dedicated to advancing the civil rights of all Americans. He is uniquely qualified to lead the Office of Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Justice. I recommend him without reservation.

Sincerely,

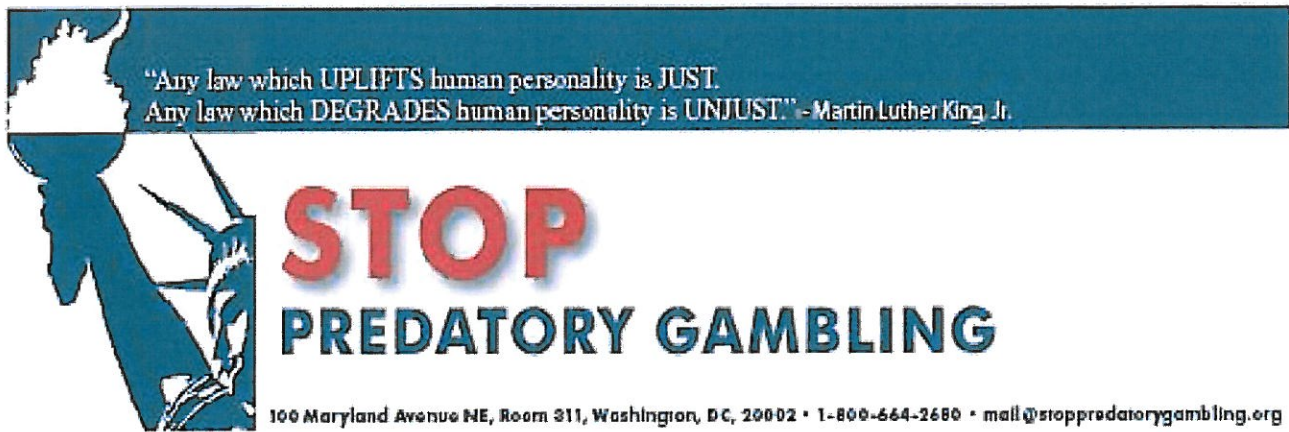
*Reverend Dr. Kerry A. Hill*

Reverend Dr. Kerry A. Hill  
President

---

P.O. Box 47005 • Forestville, Maryland 20753 • Tel: (301) 699.8449 • Fax: (301) 699.8470  
Email: [CollectiveBankingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:CollectiveBankingGroup@gmail.com) Website: [www.collectivebankinggroup.org](http://www.collectivebankinggroup.org)

*"Let us Rise Up and Build...The God of Heaven Will Prosper Us" (Nehemiah 2:18 & 20)*



April 26, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

As citizens who have been active leaders in the expanding national movement to stop predatory gambling, we respectfully write in opposition to the nomination of Thomas E. Perez to the position of Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.

The reason for our opposition is not based on partisanship or personality. We are non-partisan and our movement is made up of people whose views span the political spectrum. There is likely not a more politically diverse movement in America and in many ways, we are an affirmation that Americans, despite all of our differences, share basic core principles and values regardless of whether we consider ourselves a part of the political left or right.

The core democratic principle that binds us the strongest is equal citizenship. In America, we do not have kings or queens because here; all blood is considered royal. State-sponsored predatory gambling, the practice of using gambling to prey on human weakness *for profit*, blatantly violates the principle of equal citizenship. We are creating addicted, out-of-control gamblers in order to provide a small number of schemers an obscene level of unearned power and wealth, all in the name of getting someone else to pay our taxes.

Like most Americans, we strongly believe any nominee to lead our country's Civil Rights Division must reflect an unvarnished commitment to equal citizenship. Because of Mr. Perez's leadership role with the Maryland effort to promote slot machines as a source of funding public services, he comes up short of that standard.

Dr. Martin Luther King famously wrote in his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*: "Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust." Does Mr. Perez believe

that state-sponsored predatory gambling, and specifically the promotion of slot machines by the state, passes Dr. King's test?

Taylor Branch, the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian of the Civil Rights Movement and biographer of Dr. King, offered his answer in an April 2008 *Baltimore Sun* story: "I would say a lifetime spent studying Martin Luther King and the civil rights era steeps you in what democracy requires, because that's basically what the whole civil rights movement is about. What does equal citizenship mean? To me, the first rule of the American experience is that we don't play each other for suckers. The government shouldn't play its own citizens for suckers - 'we need public money, and we're going to fleece people who are foolish enough to go in and pull one-armed bandits.'"<sup>1</sup>

As Secretary of Labor, Licensing & Regulation for the State of Maryland, Mr. Perez played a pivotal role in bringing slot machine gambling to the state.<sup>2</sup> In the words of one state legislator, Perez was "not only one of the little drummers in the governor's parade for slots, but he's leading the parade."<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Perez rationalized his willingness to compromise the principle of equal citizenship in a 2008 *Washington Post* story: "I'm motivated in large part because I want to address the problems of the uninsured. I want to address the undereducated, and I want to address the challenges confronting people who are living in the shadows of our communities. The reality is we need a funding source to address these challenges."<sup>4</sup>

But the way we raise money says as much about our democratic principles and values as the way we spend it. The funding source Mr. Perez promotes is based on a partnership between the state and the predatory gambling trade, a business model that only works when it takes away the freedom of other Americans. The trade admits that 90% of its profits comes from 10% of the people it targets – addicted, out-of-control people.<sup>5</sup> Electronic gambling machines are the most addictive predatory gambling product of all, and they have been forced into hundreds of communities across the nation.<sup>6</sup> There are now more than 800,000 machines in the country -- one for every 400 citizens.

By every definition, someone who is an addict is not free. An addict has no free will, no freedom to choose. Does Mr. Perez believe people who are addicts deserve equal protection under the law? Assuming his answer is yes, then how does his high profile work promoting a product that by all accounts will create tens of thousands of new addicts in his state square with that belief?

While we recognize the vast scope and scale of the issues before the Senate, predatory gambling belongs high on the list because it represents the daily voice of government to most Americans. Putting predatory gambling on Main Street has helped lead to a culture based on financial gimmicks, false hopes and pure chance – all of which contribute to an illusion of free money while giving cover to those who prey on human weakness for profit. "Casino capitalism" is what *The Economist* calls it. And this culture is at the very heart of the massive economic crisis we find ourselves in today.

Mr. Perez's actions and comments during the Maryland slots campaign clearly indicate a cynical willingness to take a "pragmatic" and selective approach to our nation's core principle of equal citizenship. But our country needs a person to lead the Civil Rights Division of the United States Justice Department who will challenge America to attain its democratic ideals of equal citizenship for all, not compromise them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



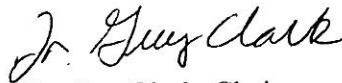
Les Bernal, Executive Director  
Stop Predatory Gambling Foundation  
**Washington, D.C.**



Aaron Meisner, Chairman  
Stop Slots Maryland  
**Maryland**



Barbara Knickelbein, Co-Chair  
NOcasiNO-Maryland  
**Maryland**



Dr. Guy Clark, Chairman  
New Mexico Coalition Against Gambling  
**New Mexico**



Pat Loontjer, Executive Director  
Gambling with the Good Life  
**Nebraska**



Lorin L. Clemenz  
Indiana Coalition Against Legalized Gambling  
**Indiana**



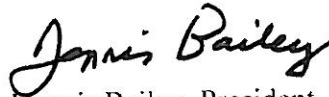
M. Taylor Montgomery  
Stop the Casino 101 Coalition  
**California**



Richard Young, President  
Casino Free Mass  
**Massachusetts**



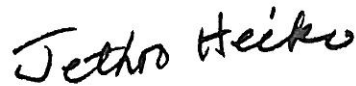
Joe Godfrey, Executive Director  
Alabama Citizens Action Program  
**Alabama**



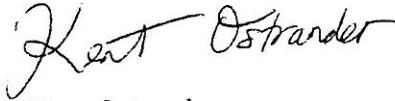
Dennis Bailey, President  
Casinos No! Maine  
**Maine**



David Anderson, Chair  
Save Lakewood  
Washington State



Jethro Heiko, Director  
Casino Free Philadelphia  
Pennsylvania



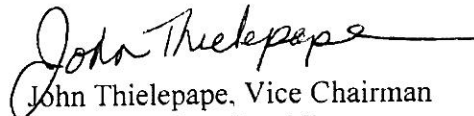
Kent Ostrander  
Say No To Casinos Kentucky  
Kentucky



MaryBeth Gorke-Felice  
Connecticut Alliance Against Casino Expansion  
Connecticut



Mark Andrews, Chairman  
Casino Watch  
Missouri and Florida



John Thielepape, Vice Chairman  
Texans Against Gambling  
Texas



James Stringham, Vice Chairman  
Michigan Gambling Opposition (MichGO)  
Michigan



Bruce Barron, President  
No Dice Pittsburgh  
Pennsylvania

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<sup>1</sup> "Slot Foes Bag a Literary Lion" *Baltimore Sun*, April 20, 2008

<sup>2</sup> "Liberal Leads The Drive for Slots in Md. Some Longtime Allies Are Surprised at Perez's Stance" *Washington Post*, November 12, 2007. Pg. B01

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Winner Takes All By Christina Binkley, 2008. Pg. 184. (Binkley is a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*)

<sup>6</sup> Dr. Robert Breen, Director, Rhode Island Hospital. 2008 video interview  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNL3FzU\\_gIU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNL3FzU_gIU)

**C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND

**REPLY TO:**

☐ 2453 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3061  
FAX: (202) 225-3094

**THE ATRIUM**

☐ 375 WEST PADONIA ROAD, SUITE 200  
TIMONIUM, MD 21093  
(410) 628-2701  
FAX: (410) 628-2708

[www.dutch.house.gov](http://www.dutch.house.gov)

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2002**

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**AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE**  
**OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS**

April 27, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Specter:

I wish to add my strong support for the nomination of Thomas Perez to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Tom has dedicated his life to public service, to the citizens of Maryland and to the nation. He has a breadth of experience in the law, public policy and management, and, he is known as a fair minded, knowledgeable and agreeable advocate for his clients, his law students and the public at large.

I was impressed that after Tom's service in very important posts in the Administration of President Bill Clinton, he worked to put into practice the policies he advocated. He chose to work in local government, winning election to the Montgomery County Council in Maryland and earning the support of his constituents and confidence of his colleagues on the Council when they elected Tom their President. At the same time, Tom commuted to Baltimore and taught public service advocacy to law students at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Law School.

Most recently, Tom demonstrated his management skills as the Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. He energized the agency and put it at the forefront of the effort to help Maryland homeowners facing foreclosure, along with many other reforms to help protect consumers. He was well respected by legislators in Annapolis from both sides of the aisle serving in the Maryland General Assembly.

I believe Tom possesses the talents and skills to make the Civil Rights Division an outstanding performer in the Justice Department. I hope your Committee will act favorably and expeditiously on the President's nomination for Tom to serve our Country again.

Respectfully,

  
C. A Dutch Ruppersberger

CADR: sjj

ERIK PAULSEN  
THIRD DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

FINANCIAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEE

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND  
CONSUMER CREDIT SUBCOMMITTEE

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE  
SUBCOMMITTEE

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

April 27, 2009



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2303**

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
126 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE: (202) 225-2871  
FAX: (202) 225-6351  
  
DISTRICT OFFICE:  
250 PRAIRIE CENTER DRIVE  
SUITE 230  
EDEN PRAIRIE, MN 55344  
PHONE: (952) 405-8510  
FAX: (952) 405-8514  
  
[www.house.gov/paulsen](http://www.house.gov/paulsen)

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter,

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Thomas Perez for Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice and urge his confirmation.

Secretary Perez's qualifications and credentials are exceptional. He is a nationally recognized civil rights lawyer whose breadth and depth of experience makes him an ideal choice to lead the Civil Rights Division. He knows the Division inside and out, because he worked there for almost a decade in variety of critical positions. As a prosecutor in the Division, he was lead attorney in some of the Department's most high profile and complex civil rights cases. As Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, he oversaw complex litigation in the employment and education areas. As a member of the nonpartisan Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured and the former Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, he has a keen understanding of health care issues that are front and center in our national dialogue.

In Maryland, Secretary Perez, in his current capacity as Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, has been a principal architect of Governor Martin O'Malley's wide ranging, successful foreclosure prevention initiative. Secretary Perez led the legislative effort that resulted in the passage of a package of reforms that were comprehensive and consensus. He negotiated written agreements with six major mortgage servicing companies to provide meaningful relief to Maryland homeowners in danger of foreclosure. One of the largest ongoing mortgage fraud prosecutions in the nation originated in Secretary Perez's office.

He has held leadership positions in federal, state and local government, and has worked in all three branches of the federal government. As such, he has an acute understanding of the need

for the federal government to work in partnership with state and local governments to safeguard the civil rights of all Americans.

Leading the Civil Rights Division, like running an Attorney General's office, requires extensive legal, management and leadership skills, as well as extensive experience in building coalitions. Secretary Perez has led important agencies. He currently heads a Department of roughly 1600 employees, and has held other leadership positions in the federal government. He has a well earned reputation as a consensus builder.

Mr. Perez's distinguished career demonstrates his vast leadership ability, integrity and commitment to public service. I am confident that Mr. Perez would make an exceptional Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division and urge you to confirm his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. Paulsen', written in a cursive, stylized script.

Erik Paulsen  
Member of Congress



April 27, 2009

**VIA FACSIMILE AND ELECTRONIC MAIL**

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Minority Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: *HNBA Endorsement of Thomas E. Perez for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice*

Dear Senators Leahy and Specter:

On behalf of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), we write to support and encourage the immediate confirmation of Mr. Thomas E. Perez as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division ("Division") of the U.S. Department of Justice. The HNBA is a non-profit, non-partisan Association that represents the interests of the more than 100,000 Hispanic attorneys, judges, law professors, law students and paralegals in the United States and Puerto Rico.

As required by our *Policies and Procedures Governing Executive Endorsements (2008)*, the HNBA has conducted appropriate due diligence concerning Mr. Perez's professional qualifications for the position to which President Obama has nominated him. We also have the advantage of having worked with Mr. Perez in a variety of contexts over the years. Based on our review, it is clear that he possesses both the experience and qualifications required to distinguish himself as Assistant Attorney General.

Currently serving as Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), Mr. Perez has spent his entire career in public service. His career showcases an impressive track record of leadership and advocacy in civil rights at the local, state and national levels of government which, together with his extensive relevant experience and strong academic credentials, render him extraordinarily well-prepared to lead the Division.

Mr. Perez received his undergraduate degree from Brown University, where he majored in International Affairs. He pursued his graduate studies at Harvard, where he received both a Master Degree in Public Policy from The Kennedy School of Government and a law degree with

honors from Harvard Law School in 1987. While at Harvard Law School, Mr. Perez served as the Executive Editor of the Harvard Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Law Review.

Mr. Perez began his legal career at the U.S. Department of Justice as part of the Attorney General's Honors Program, where he served as a Trial Attorney in the Criminal Section of the Division. His professional excellence led to his progression at the Division, where he eventually became the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Section in 1994. In addition, Mr. Perez developed extensive congressional and legislative experience while serving as Special Counsel to Senator Edward M. Kennedy, becoming his principal advisor on civil rights, criminal justice and constitutional issues. During the last two years of the Clinton administration, Mr. Perez served as the Director of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. There, he led that Office's transformation from a critically important yet chronically underperforming unit into an entity capable of effectively executing the federally mandated enforcement of civil rights laws protecting vulnerable populations.

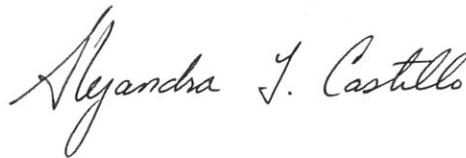
Mr. Perez is among the stellar members of the Hispanic community and has demonstrated his leadership not only at the federal level but also a leader in state and local government. In 2002, Mr. Perez became the first Latino to be elected to the Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, and served as Council President from 2005 through 2006. In 2007, he became the first Latino to oversee over 1700 employees at a state agency as Maryland's Secretary of Labor.

Mr. Perez's professional qualifications, personal attributes and dedication to public service make him an outstanding candidate to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice. We stand ready to assist in your deliberations should there be any questions. Please feel free to contact us at our national office at (202) 223-4777 or directly at (302) 992-4213 for Ms. Romero or (202) 271-7011 for Ms. Castillo.

Sincerely yours,



Ramona E. Romero  
National President



Alejandra Castillo  
Executive Endorsements Committee

cc: The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr., U.S. Attorney General  
Mr. Thomas E. Perez, Esq.  
Román D. Hernández, HNBA President-Elect  
Jessica Herrera-Flanigan, Region V President  
HNBA Executive Committee  
M. Lucero Ortiz, HNBA Director of Programs and Policy



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

April 27, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
United States Senate Judiciary Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you to recommend without reservation the nomination by the President of Tom Perez to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Tom Perez is uniquely qualified to serve in this important position by virtue of his intelligence, experience, and temperament. He has worked at the federal, state, and local levels of government with considerable distinction as a U.S. Senate staffer, a federal prosecutor, as Maryland state labor secretary, and as the first Latino ever elected to the Montgomery County Council.

Tom has dedicated much of his life to working as a public servant and is a nationally known and respected civil rights lawyer and community leader. Among his long and impressive list of civic and community affiliations, he has served as Chair of Casa of Maryland and served on the Board of Directors of the National Immigration Forum.

As Maryland Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Tom has consistently demonstrated leadership as an outspoken and steadfast advocate for the rights of Maryland's working families. And, during a difficult and historic national recession that has caused a collapse of the housing market causing many families to lose their homes, he was instrumental in the establishment of some of the nation's leading foreclosure reforms.

In the rough and tumble of local politics, Tom deployed a winning mix of principle and pragmatism, forging consensus while also pushing the envelope on such issues as prescription drug prices, predatory lending, and home foreclosures.

I believe Tom Perez has consistently demonstrated in various roles, a profound affection for the law, a zeal to fight injustice, and disarming candor and respect for all with whom he comes in contact with. He has been an extremely passionate and effective advocate for the residents of Montgomery County and the State of Maryland, and I am confident that he will bring this commitment and dedication to the federal level as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

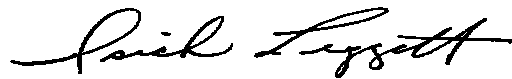
The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
April 27, 2009  
Page Two

Tom is also dedicated to passing on his knowledge and expertise to the next generation. He consistently carves time from his schedule to share his knowledge through classes at local universities. For five years beginning in 2001, Tom was a law professor at the University of Maryland School of Law, including a two-year stint as Director of Clinical Law Programs. Currently, he is a part-time professor at George Washington School of Public Health.

I feel strongly that Tom Perez would be a valuable addition to the Obama administration. His energy, compassion and commitment are exactly the attributes that are needed to tackle the 21<sup>st</sup> century civil rights challenges that lie before us. He has an unwavering ability to work with people of all backgrounds and points of view.

Tom Perez would be an outstanding choice to fill this position. I urge your confirmation of this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isiah Leggett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

As the chief law enforcement officers of our respective states, we write to express our strong support for the nomination of Thomas Perez for Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. We urge his confirmation.

Secretary Perez's qualifications and credentials are exceptional. He is a nationally recognized civil rights lawyer whose breadth and depth of experience make him an ideal choice to lead the Civil Rights Division. He knows the Division well, having worked there for almost a decade in a variety of critical positions. As a prosecutor in the Division, he was lead attorney in some of the Department's most high profile and complex civil rights cases. As Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, he oversaw complex litigation in the employment and education areas.

In Maryland, Secretary Perez, in his current capacity as Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, has played a key role in the state's response to the ongoing mortgage crisis. He negotiated agreements with six major mortgage servicing companies to provide relief to Maryland homeowners in danger of foreclosure. One of the largest ongoing mortgage fraud prosecutions in the nation originated in Secretary Perez's office. With housing at the top of the Department of Justice's agenda, Secretary Perez will be well-situated to play a major role.

He has held leadership positions in federal, state and local government, and has worked in all three branches of the federal government. As such, he has an acute understanding of the need for the federal government to work in partnership with state and local governments to safeguard the civil rights of all Americans.

Heading the Civil Rights Division, like running an Attorney General's office, requires extensive legal, management and leadership skills, as well as extensive experience in building coalitions. Secretary Perez has led important agencies. He currently heads a Department of about 1600 employees, and has held other senior positions in the federal government. He has a well-earned reputation as someone who listens, learns quickly, builds consensus, and leads effectively.

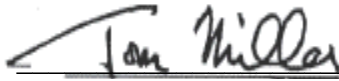
Mr. Perez's distinguished career demonstrates his leadership abilities, integrity and commitment to public service. We are confident that Mr. Perez would be an exceptional Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division and urge you to confirm his nomination.

Sincerely,



---

Terry Goddard  
Attorney General of Arizona



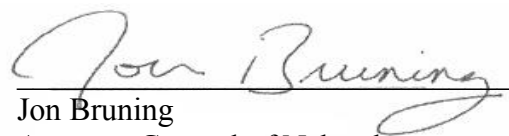
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Tom Miller  
Attorney General of Iowa



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Martha Coakley  
Attorney General of Massachusetts



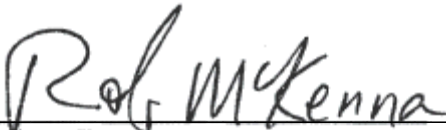
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Jon Bruning  
Attorney General of Nebraska



---

Mark Shurtleff  
Attorney General of Utah



---

Rob McKenna  
Attorney General of Washington



---

William H. Sorrell  
Attorney General of Vermont



# Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

**1629 K Street, NW  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20006**

**Phone: 202-466-3311  
Fax: 202-466-3435  
www.civilrights.org**

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*National Council of Negro Women*

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*National Partnership for  
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*Asian American Justice Center*  
William L. Taylor  
*Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights*

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Mary G. Wilson  
*League of Women Voters*

## COMPLIANCE/ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Karen K. Narasaki  
*Asian American Justice Center*

### PRESIDENT & CEO

Wade J. Henderson

April 27, 2009

The Honorable Senator Patrick Leahy, Chairman  
433 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-4502

The Honorable Senator Arlen Specter, Ranking Member  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-3802

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

On behalf of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the nation's oldest, largest, and most diverse civil and human rights coalition, and the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong support for the nomination of Thomas E. ("Tom") Perez to the position of Assistant Attorney General ("AAG") for the Civil Rights Division ("CRT" or "the Division") of the Department of Justice ("DOJ"). Mr. Perez has a breadth and depth of experience in public service, civil rights, management, and leadership that make him an exceptional candidate for this post. We applaud President Obama's selection of him for this position and urge you to support this nomination.

The Civil Rights Division faces severe challenges in recovering from eight years of abhorrent policies ranging from the loss of a significant number of career staff, to unsavory hiring practices at DOJ, to the failure to fully enforce federal civil rights laws, including not actively pursuing pattern and practice cases. It will take strong and reliable leadership combined with extensive experience at the Division to restore the Division to its previous prominence in the enforcement of civil rights laws. Tom Perez is the right person to take on that challenge.

Mr. Perez is among the most qualified individuals to be nominated for this position. With experience in the executive and legislative branches at both the federal and state levels, Tom Perez knows the complexities of government work, understands the issues he will face, is committed to securing and defending civil rights, and has the management abilities necessary to oversee the CRT and return it to its former stature. After an impressive academic career, Mr. Perez spent his first ten years in practice at the Division, where he began as a federal prosecutor in the Criminal Section, and rose to become its Deputy Chief. As such, he is the first nominee for the AAG position in over thirty-five years who has had experience as a career Division attorney. He then became Special Counsel to Senator Edward Kennedy, serving as the Senator's principal adviser on civil rights, criminal justice, and constitutional issues. In January 1998, Mr. Perez became Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice. He was then appointed Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of

*"Equality In a Free, Plural, Democratic Society"*

Hubert H. Humphrey Civil Rights Award Dinner • May 7, 2009

Health and Human Services (“HHS”). After leaving the federal government, Mr. Perez served as a consultant on health care and civil rights issues; and taught and directed the clinical program at the University of Maryland Law School. He also was elected to the Montgomery County Council in 2002, and served as its President from December 2004 to December 2005. Mr. Perez was appointed Secretary of Maryland’s Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation by Governor Martin O’Malley in January 2007.

Tom Perez’s commitment to civil rights is clear and long-standing. While in the Criminal Section of the CRT, he successfully prosecuted civil rights cases nationwide related to police misconduct and racial violence, and supervised a staff of thirty. One of his most notable cases, for which he received the Attorney General’s Award for Distinguished Service, involved the successful prosecution of three white supremacists in Texas for hate crimes. As Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, Mr. Perez was engaged in department-wide efforts to pass hate crimes legislation and address police misconduct. He also headed an interagency Worker Exploitation Taskforce to address the growing problem of worker exploitation around the country. As Director of the Office of Civil Rights at HHS, he was integral to the Department’s initiative to end racial and ethnic disparities in health status. His accomplishments there also included expanding access for language minorities, working to find community-based health solutions for persons with disabilities, co-chairing a department-wide effort to address challenges to immigrants seeking health care access, and developing legislation for federal medical records privacy. As a member and president of the Montgomery County Council, he was instrumental in securing more affordable housing in the county and expanding health coverage for the uninsured.

In almost every position that Mr. Perez has held, he has risen to, or been appointed to, a management position. In the Civil Rights Division, he rose to become the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Section where he oversaw staff while maintaining his own caseload. As Deputy Assistant Attorney General, he managed the Criminal, Education, and Employment sections; one of his accomplishments included a thorough strategic review of the Education section to ascertain that it was fulfilling its mission of promoting equal opportunities in education. In the Office of Civil Rights in HHS, he not only managed a staff of more than 200, but also set enforcement priorities, oversaw a \$28 million budget, and advised the Secretary. He led a major revitalization effort for the agency at a time when it was facing a crisis of morale. Currently, as head of the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation for Maryland, Secretary Perez runs a 1,700 person agency with a \$170 million budget. Through these experiences, Mr. Perez has shown himself to be a manager and leader who remains committed to his principles, can endure challenges, and get things done. This is the type of leadership that the Civil Rights Division sorely needs.

The Civil Rights Division was created just over 50 years ago with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Its mission is to provide equal treatment and equal justice under the law by enforcing and defending the civil rights of all Americans in areas such as education, employment, housing, voting, criminal justice, and public accommodations. The recent controversies and ideologically motivated decision-making of the Division directly challenge its core functions and have created a Division with low morale and little impact.



Because of the immediate and difficult tasks facing the Division, it is important that the next AAG has the ability to manage effectively, an understanding of the traditions and operations of the Division, a commitment to enforcing civil rights laws, and the vision of a leader to restore the functions of the CRT. We are confident that, along with Attorney General Eric Holder, Tom Perez will return the Division to its original promise, once again working to enforce the civil rights of all Americans. In light of Mr. Perez's outstanding qualifications, we ask that you vote to confirm him quickly so that he can begin the important work of restoring the Civil Rights Division to its original stature and lead it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. If you have any questions, please contact LCCR Senior Counsel Lisa Bornstein at [Bornstein@civilrights.org](mailto:Bornstein@civilrights.org) or (202) 263-2856 or Nancy Zirkin, Executive Vice President, at (202) 263-2880.

Sincerely,

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights  
ADA Watch  
Alliance for Justice  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations AFL-CIO  
Americans for Democratic Action  
Asian American Justice Center  
Bazelon Center  
Feminist Majority  
Human Rights Campaign  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
NAACP Legal Defense Fund  
National Abortion Federation  
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)  
National Association of Consumer Advocates  
National Coalition for Disability Rights (NCDR)  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
National Education Association  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Health Law Program  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Women's Law Center  
People For the American Way  
The Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law



State Law Enforcement  
Officers Labor Alliance

On behalf of State Law Enforcement Officers Labor Alliance (SLEOLA), I am writing to express support for Tom Perez to become the next Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Department of Justice. Having seen his work ethic and fair mindedness at work at Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), we would like to see him bring that same approach to this vitally important Justice Department position.

The SLEOLA's primary purpose is to unite into one labor organization all eligible organizations whose members are employed with the Maryland State Police, the Natural Resources Police, the State Forest and Park Service, the Maryland Department of General Services and the Maryland State Fire Marshal. One of our constituent groups is the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Police Force. This is a small contingent of sworn officers responsible for security at DLLR in Baltimore.

Our officers who work with Secretary Perez see firsthand the dedication he has to the mission of DLLR and the people of Maryland. DLLR is experiencing a renaissance, and it is easily attributed to Secretary Perez's tenure. He displays the character and integrity that make us confident he will bring the kind of rejuvenation we saw at DLLR to the Department of Justice.

We believe Tom Perez will make an excellent Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, and urge you to confirm his nomination.

Sincerely,

*Jimmy Dulay*

Jimmy Dulay  
President



MEMBER OF CONGRESS

BARBARA LEE  
NINTH DISTRICT  
CALIFORNIA

April 28, 2009

The Hon. Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy,

I write to express my strong support for the confirmation of Thomas Perez as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice.

Mr. Perez' excellent record of public service and commitment to civil rights make him an ideal choice, and would help place the Civil Rights Division back on strong footing as the nation's foremost defender of civil rights and individual liberties.

Thomas Perez has consistently defended civil rights in his numerous roles as a public servant, including as a federal prosecutor for the Civil Rights Division at DOJ, Special Counsel for Senator Edward Kennedy, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Clinton Administration, Director of the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services, and Maryland Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

The past eight years regrettably damaged the reputation of the Department of Justice, with political affiliation and ideology serving as the basis of staff hirings and decision-making. The confirmation of Thomas Perez would mark a clean break from these years, as it would confirm a public servant not based on partisanship but on merit and a commitment to the ideals on which the Civil Rights Division was founded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Lee".

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

April 28, 2009

Jamie S. Gorelick

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
244 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



The Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
244 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

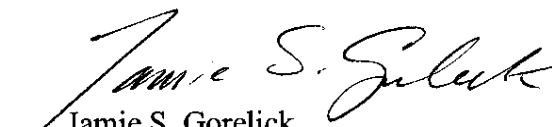
Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

I am writing in connection with the nomination of Tom Perez to become Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. Tom was among the strongest lawyers and leaders in the Civil Rights Division when I was Deputy Attorney General. The Division benefitted from his experience and judgment, as it certainly will if he is confirmed to lead the Division.

Tom has also been a strong civic leader in Montgomery County, Maryland, where I live. He takes responsibility for the health and well-being of his community in a way that is truly admirable.

I urge his confirmation.

Sincerely yours,

  
Jamie S. Gorelick

April 28, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: *Nomination of Mr. Tom Perez to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights*

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Republican Member Specter:

We write as former Republican staff members of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary to express our support for the nomination of Tom Perez to be U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. Each of us had the privilege of working directly with Tom – often as adversaries on contentious issues of public policy – and emerged from the experience with great respect for him as a public official of the highest integrity.

During our respective tenures on the Judiciary Committee staff, each of us worked on nominations to senior Justice Department positions including the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. We understand that essential for any individual nominated for such a role is the willingness to advocate with passion, rigor, integrity and open-mindedness. The issues undertaken by that Division are too important to the nation to be undermined by political calculation or rigid ideology. As a result of that experience, we are confident that while we may not agree with him on every issue, Tom is nevertheless a nominee of whom the Committee and the nation can be proud.

As a member of Senator Kennedy's Judiciary Committee staff in the 1990s, Tom worked tirelessly in pursuit of his office's policy interests. A hallmark of Tom's approach with respect to those of us on the Republican staff were his efforts -- sometimes successful, sometimes not -- to find common ground on matters of mutual importance. Tom's approach was typically to seek to persuade and compromise to the extent possible, rather than resort to intimidation or invective. He was, in short, more interested in "moving the ball forward" for the common good than in scoring political points at the expense of his adversaries. The important work facing the Civil Rights Division demands that approach to leadership.

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
The Honorable Arlen Specter  
April 28, 2009  
Page 2

Tom Perez is a talented, experienced and decent public official. Our work with him on the Senate Judiciary Committee staff convinces us that he will lead the Civil Rights Division with openness and integrity in pursuit of the goal of equal justice, which we all cherish. It is for this reason that we urge the Committee to support his nomination.

Very truly yours,

BRIAN W. JONES  
Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee, 1997-1998

MANUS COONEY  
Chief Counsel & Staff Director, Senate  
Judiciary Committee, 1997-2001; Counsel,  
Senate Judiciary Committee, 1989-1996

RHETT DeHART  
Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee, 1998-2001

MARK DISLER  
Minority Staff Director and Majority Chief  
Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee, 1993-  
1997; Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee,  
1988-1993

**Y. Maria Welch**  
Respira Medical  
Chair

**Ricardo Martinez**  
Project Enhancement  
Corporation  
Immediate Past Chair

**Board of Directors**

**Theresa Daytner**  
Daytner Construction  
President

**Luis Diaz-Colorado**  
Sandy Spring Bank  
Treasurer

**Juan Muñoz**  
Open Global Marketing  
Secretary

**Bettina Guevara**  
Miles & Stockbridge

**Bill Villanueva**  
Governors Office of  
Minority Affairs

**Carmen Larsen**  
Aguas, Inc.

**Elaine Bonneau**  
Bonneau & Associates.

**Joseph Morales**  
Whiteford, Taylor & Preston

**Juan Rubio**  
Nationwide Insurance

**Jerry Godwin**  
Montgomery County Dept  
of Economic Development

**Veronica Cool**  
Wachovia

**Advisory Board**

**Gigi Guzman**  
GlobalTech Inc.

**Roberto Correa**  
Manufacturing Support  
Industries

April 28, 2009

Chairman Patrick Leahy, and  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

We are an organization that represents the business interest of Latino entrepreneurs in Maryland. It is a pleasure and a privilege to endorse Thomas E. Perez for Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. Tom is a consensus builder and a man that has navigated the tough road that divides the interest of businesses from unions. He has and continues to bring people to the table when conflict rage and opponents stand eye ball to eye ball unwilling to compromise. Time and time again, we have witnessed his extraordinary ability to build coalitions in seemingly impossible situations where people unite to talk finding common interest and ultimately resolve their challenges to the satisfaction of all.

Tom epitomizes the struggle our community has waged to gain its rightful place at the table. He is the son of Dominican parents. His father died when he was twelve. However, despite such hardships Tom persevered and received scholarships in recognition of his academic excellence. He attended Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School. Tom was the first, and so far the only, Hispanic elected to the Montgomery County Council where he ultimately served as President. He is respected for his integrity and for his work as a consumer advocate. He has worked tirelessly to help immigrants and has served on the Board of Casa of Maryland, where he spearheaded that organization as President. He has worked with, Maryland, Baltimore City and Montgomery County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and helped the chambers grow. His interest in promoting the growth of Hispanic chambers statewide is perhaps the greatest civil rights initiative a leader can

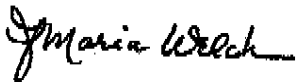
Chairman Patrick Leahy  
April 28, 2009  
Page 2

undertake for self reliance and hard work has always been the path each immigrant group has pursued to lift them up and contribute to the wealth of our nation.

Tom was also an aggressive federal prosecutor where he tenaciously and successfully prosecuted those who denied the civil rights of others. There are still many barriers that prevent Latinos and others from owning their own home or paying debts at an interest rate that is enjoyed by others. Civil rights from our perspective translates in into economic rights and empowerment and we believe Tom is the right person to begin the process of exploring the new battle ground of economic equity that still permeates sectors of our economy. The good old boy network is a system that discriminates against those that are not good old boys and not boys at all. We hope to see a renewed interest in making the American dream a reality for all and we believe Tom with his capacity to bring diverse and conflicting groups together is the person to accomplish this final push to ensure civil right and equal rights for all.

So we ask the Committee to unanimously confirm this inspirational leader of the Hispanic community, Thomas E. Perez, as the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division.

Sincerely,



Y. Maria Welch  
Chair



Ricardo Martinez  
Immediate Past Chair



**Thomas Perez – Nominee for Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice**

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is the principal legal authority tasked with enforcing federal fair housing laws, and it has both a clear mandate and wide discretion with respect to fair housing enforcement. Unfortunately, in recent years, DOJ has not met its responsibilities. The National Commission on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, co-chaired by former HUD Secretaries Jack Kemp and Henry Cisneros, released its report in December 2008 assessing the state and future of fair housing in America. One of the recommendations of the Commission was a renewed vigor and commitment to civil rights enforcement by the Department of Justice. In 2008, DOJ filed only 33 fair housing cases. The low number of cases DOJ handled was not due to a decline in civil rights violations; on the contrary, the Commission reported that more than 4 million instances of fair housing violations occur each year.

Our housing market cannot wait any longer for a commitment to fair housing enforcement. In the realm of mortgage lending, the Civil Rights Division has not recognized nor prosecuted discriminatory practices within the subprime market. It also did little to induce or require conventional lenders to operate within minority communities. **In 2008, DOJ filed only one case based on mortgage lending discrimination.**

Tom Perez is the right choice to lead this effort as the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department. He is an experienced civil rights lawyer and public servant with first-hand experience in civil rights law and policy. He is dedicated to public service, having spent ten years at the Civil Rights Division at DOJ, served as Head of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, President of Montgomery County, Maryland Council, Special Counsel to Senator Edward Kennedy, and currently as Maryland Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

With respect to civil rights, Mr. Perez has extensive experience prosecuting vigorously for the Civil Rights Division of DOJ. There, he handled cases of misconduct, racial violence, white supremacists, neo-Nazism, racially motivated arsons, cross burning and numerous police brutality and misconduct cases nationwide.

With regards to the foreclosure and financial crisis, Mr. Perez understands these issues and has the expertise to lead the Civil Rights Division's investigation and enforcement of civil rights and other laws that can stem abuses in the financial sector. In fact, Mr. Perez is Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley's point person on foreclosure prevention and has been working on fair housing issues from a state perspective for the past two years.

The nation needs an Assistant Attorney General with experience who is respected for his capabilities and integrity, and who will restore the Division to its mission of enforcing the law and hiring attorneys without regard to politics. The National Fair Housing Alliance supports the confirmation of Thomas Perez as U.S. Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

Contact:

Deidre Swesnik



April 2009



April 28, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
FAX (202) 224-9516

The Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
711 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
FAX (202) 224-9102

*Re: Nomination of Thomas E. Perez to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division*

Dear Senators Leahy and Specter:

On behalf of the National Women's Law Center (the "Center"), an organization that has worked since 1972 to advance and protect women's legal rights, we write in strong support of the nomination of Thomas E. Perez to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division.

The Civil Rights Division enforces legal protections of critical importance to women, including Title VII, which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; Title IX, which protects women against sex-based discrimination in educational programs; and the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act, which allows women to safely exercise their constitutional rights to reproductive health. In addition, the Civil Rights Division prosecutes hate crimes and crimes of human trafficking.

At this critical moment, the Civil Rights Division is in dire need of new leadership. Over the past eight years, the Civil Rights Division has failed to fulfill its mission of protecting and enforcing the legal rights of all Americans, and women and their families have suffered mightily as a result. The Division has been politicized and the excellence of the career attorney ranks has been tested and undermined. As a result, civil rights protections have been eroded over the past eight years. For example:

- The hostile climate in the Civil Rights Division, and most particularly in the Employment Section, led to the departure of a number of career attorneys. In addition, in the attorney hiring process, political appointees charged with filling career attorney positions rejected candidates with extensive civil rights backgrounds in favor of applicants with no expertise, but with demonstrated conservative political leanings.

- During the Bush Administration, the Employment Section of the Division filed only 27 actions asserting claims of sex discrimination under Title VII, which prohibits such discrimination in employment. In comparison, approximately 50 such actions were filed during the prior Administration. The failure to prosecute employment discrimination cases meant fewer jobs, lower paychecks and more suffering and struggle for women and their families.
- The Appellate Section of the Civil Rights Division took a position in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire*, 550 U.S. 618 (2007), a Supreme Court case that effectively eviscerated women's ability to enforce their right to equal pay. This position upended settled law and longstanding government interpretations.
- In several cases, the Employment Section reversed course or changed position dramatically, undermining the rights of plaintiffs in the process.
- Although the Civil Rights Division is responsible for criminal and civil actions stemming from violations of FACE, the Division during the Bush years failed to provide the Task Force on Violence Against Health Care Providers with the staffing or institutional support needed to effectively prevent, or respond to, continuing clinic violence.

As a result, it is of the utmost importance that the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division have a strong commitment to enforcing the civil rights protections that the citizens of this nation rely upon, including the legal rights and protections specifically intended to provide women and girls with equal opportunity and the equal protection of the law.

Mr. Perez is such a person. He is eminently qualified for this position, having spent his career working to enforce and support robust civil rights protections. He worked as a career prosecutor in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and received the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding work. He was promoted to be Deputy Chief of the Criminal Section, and was later appointed Deputy Attorney General for Civil Rights. He served as Senator Edward Kennedy's Special Counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee, acting as the Senator's principal adviser on civil rights. During the last two years of the Clinton Administration, Mr. Perez served as Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he advised the HHS Secretary on a number of civil rights issues, including discrimination in welfare-to-work programs based on race, disability, and national origin.

Following his service in the federal government, Mr. Perez taught at the University Maryland School of Law for six years as a clinical law professor. He served on the Montgomery County, Maryland, County Council, and currently serves as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR). In his capacity as Secretary of DLLR, Mr. Perez has supported implementing the

recommendations of the Maryland Equal Pay Commission, which helped ease the passage of a pay disparity data bill in 2008; this paved the way for the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Civil Rights Restoration Act on April 14, 2009 (mirroring the federal Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act).

This twenty-year career in public service provided Mr. Perez not only with expertise in critical civil rights protections but also with significant leadership and management experience. For example, as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, he oversaw litigation activities for the Criminal, Education, and Employment Sections and assisted in developing and implementing policy and legislative initiatives. As Director of the Office for Civil Rights in HHS, he managed a 230-person staff and a \$28 million dollar budget. And as Secretary of the Maryland DLLR, he supervises an agency of 1700 employees and manages a \$170 million budget. This experience has prepared him for the daunting task of overhauling a Division in desperate need of rebuilding.

Throughout his career, Mr. Perez has worked to protect and further legal rights and protections crucial to the women of this country. Mr. Perez has the experience and the commitment to equal justice necessary to restore the mission and vitality of the Civil Rights Division at this critical moment. Consequently, the Center offers its strong support of Thomas E. Perez to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, and urges the Committee to approve his nomination quickly, so that he may begin the important work that awaits him. If you have questions or if we can be of assistance, please contact us at (202) 588-5180.

Sincerely,



Nancy Duff Campbell  
Co-President



Marcia D. Greenberger  
Co-President

Cc.: Judiciary Committee



April 28, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

On behalf of OCA, I am writing to support the nomination of Thomas E. Perez as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice. Mr. Perez has excellent qualifications for this job and we are confident that if confirmed he will lead the Civil Rights Division back to its traditional stature of providing equal treatment and equal justice under the law.

Founded in 1973 as the Organization of Chinese Americans, OCA and its over 80 chapters and affiliates across the country are dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. OCA was the first Asian American and Pacific Islander organization to establish permanent headquarters in our nation's capital.

As Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Mr. Perez took on the significant challenge of revamping an agency that had been long neglected and was widely seen as ineffective. Since taking the reins in 2007, Mr. Perez has helped the agency gain stature, and has made it one that is well-respected by lawmakers and other officials.

Mr. Perez has also been a leader of Maryland's efforts to combat the foreclosure crisis, playing a key role in crafting a legislative package that has been called among the most sweeping in the nation. The package of four laws was the result of a task force process that brought all stakeholders together. This year, working to combat the fraudulent misclassification of employees as independent contractors, Mr. Perez again brought together a broad group of stakeholders, including both labor and industry advocates.

Mr. Perez has committed his entire career to public service, most of it as a prosecutor in the Civil Rights Division. Mr. Perez's commitment to advancing the civil rights of all Americans, and his devotion to the mission of the Division, make him uniquely qualified to lead the Division. For these reasons, OCA urges for Mr. Perez's confirmation as the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or if OCA can provide your office with additional information that is helpful to this process.

Respectfully,

George C. Wu  
National Executive Director

*Founded in 1973 as the Organization of Chinese Americans, OCA is a national organization dedicated to the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.*

April 28, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
433 Russell Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
711 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

We both served as Assistant Attorneys General for the Civil Rights Division in the United States Department of Justice under President George W. Bush. As you know, the Division enforces the federal anti-discrimination laws that Congress has enacted in numerous areas, including criminal enforcement, disability rights, education, employment, housing, institutionalized persons and voting. It was a tremendous responsibility and privilege for us to have served in this position.

Neither of us is personally familiar with Thomas Perez, the President's nominee for this important Office, although we note favorably his prior experience at the Department of Justice. We both believe that the President should have wide latitude to appoint qualified individuals to serve in his Administration. Many well-intentioned people on both sides of the aisle feel strongly about many of the enforcement activities and initiatives the Civil Rights Division undertakes. It is an unfortunate fact that such sincerely held views have been insurmountable impediments to the confirmations of former nominees to this Office, both Republican and Democratic, rather than being the impetus for critical dialogue and constructive debate.

We strongly believe that legitimate policy differences are fair game for inquiry and debate. They should not, however, become manifestly political, particularly where the Department of Justice is concerned. We urge the Committee to treat the President's nominee to this position fairly, based upon the entirety of the record, and to resolve any close questions in favor of the President's prerogative to appoint like-minded individuals to serve within the Executive Branch. In our democratic society, this is among the many fair consequences of elections.



---

Ralph F. Boyd, Jr.  
Former Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division (2001-2003)

/s/ Wan J. Kim  
Wan J. Kim  
Former Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division (2005-2007)

**Congressional Hispanic Caucus**  
**United States Congress**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

CHAIRWOMAN  
**NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ**  
12TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

April 29, 2009

Senator Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
226 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
226 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter;

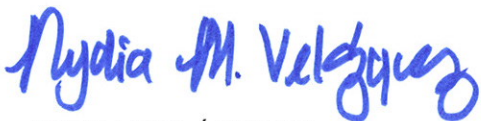
On behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), we write to enthusiastically support Mr. Tom Perez to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice (DOJ). His nomination is important to our nation as we move forward on important matters concerning civil rights, voting rights, people with disabilities and many others. We urge the Senate to immediately confirm his nomination so that he can begin to work on these issues.

Tom Perez has a proven track record having served the people of Maryland on the Montgomery County Council. He also served as the state's Secretary of Labor Licensing and Regulation, and as part of the Clinton Administration in the DOJ. Mr. Perez comes to the Department of Justice after having most recently served as Maryland's Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. He was also a part of the Obama Transition Team, was elected to the Montgomery County Council from 2002-2006, and served as the Council's President in 2005.

His 12 years of experience in the Civil Rights Division as a federal prosecutor included high profile cases. One of those cases was a hate crimes case in Texas that involved white supremacists who went on a racially motivated crime spree. He later served Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under Attorney General Janet Reno.

We urge you to immediately confirm Tom Perez for Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at the DOJ. We are confident that he will provide strong leadership and ensure the rights guaranteed to all Americans are enforced and protected.

Sincerely,



NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ  
Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



RUBÉN HINOJOSA  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



CHARLES A. GONZALEZ  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



JOHN SALAZAR  
Whip  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus

## **State Attorneys General**

**A Communication From the Chief Legal Officers  
of the Following States and Territories:**

**Connecticut \* Guam \* Hawaii  
Iowa \* Louisiana \* Mississippi \* New Mexico  
Ohio \* Rhode Island**

April 29, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
*Via facsimile (202) 224-9516*

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
*Via facsimile (202) 224-9102*

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

As the chief law enforcement officers of our respective states, we write to express our support for the nomination of Thomas Perez for Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. We believe that Mr. Perez has the experience, knowledge, and abilities to lead this important Division.

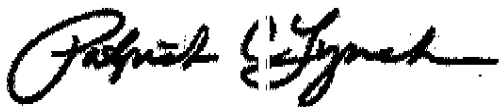
Secretary Perez would bring exemplary advocacy, leadership, and prosecutorial experience and qualifications to the Civil Rights Division. He is an experienced and nationally recognized civil rights lawyer who knows the Division well, having worked in it for almost a decade in a variety of critical positions. As a prosecutor in the Division, he was lead attorney in some of the Department's most high profile and complex civil rights cases. As Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, he oversaw complex litigation in the employment and education areas.

In Maryland, Secretary Perez has demonstrated a keen understanding of State government in his current position as Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. In this capacity, he has played a key role in the state's response to the ongoing mortgage crisis. He negotiated agreements with six major mortgage servicing companies to provide relief to Maryland homeowners in danger of foreclosure. One of the largest ongoing mortgage fraud prosecutions in the nation originated in Secretary Perez's office. With housing at the top of the Department of Justice's agenda, Secretary Perez will be well-situated to play a major role and to foster partnership with state and local governments to safeguard the civil rights of all Americans.

Heading the Civil Rights Division, like running an Attorney General's office, requires extensive legal, management, and leadership skills, as well as extensive experience in building coalitions. Secretary Perez has led important agencies. He currently heads a Department of about 1600 employees, and has held other senior positions in the federal government. He has a well-earned reputation as someone who listens, learns quickly, builds consensus, and leads effectively.

Mr. Perez's distinguished career demonstrates his leadership abilities, integrity and commitment to public service. We are confident that Mr. Perez would be an exceptional Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division and urge you to confirm his nomination.

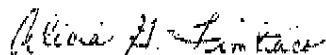
Sincerely,



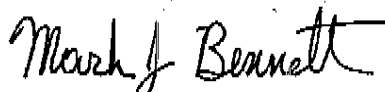
Patrick Lynch  
Rhode Island Attorney General



Richard Blumenthal  
Connecticut Attorney General



Alicia G. Limtiaco  
Guam Attorney General



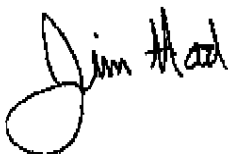
Mark J. Bennett  
Hawaii Attorney General



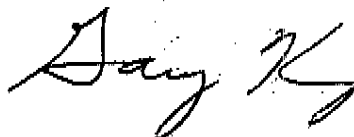
Tom Miller  
Iowa Attorney General



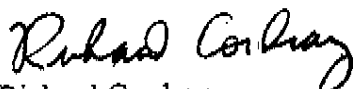
James D. "Buddy" Caldwell  
Louisiana Attorney General



Jim Hood  
Mississippi Attorney General



Gary King  
New Mexico Attorney General



Richard Cordray  
Ohio Attorney General

Cc: Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary



1801 K Street, NW, Suite 1000 Washington DC 20006  
tel +1 202 719 5000 fax +1 202 719 5001

29 April 2009

Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Nomination of Tom Perez to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to urge the Judiciary Committee and the Senate to vote to confirm the nomination of Tom Perez of Maryland to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. The nation needs someone in the Civil Rights post at the Department of Justice equal to the task of rebuilding the Civil Rights Division, someone who is worthy of the legacy of the best of those who have held the post before. Tom Perez is that person.

His resume tells you that he has spent most of his career in the field of employment and civil rights law, including significant service in the Civil Rights Division at Justice, the division he would now head. The resume clearly indicates that he has the experience on paper to perform this job competently.

But I can tell you from personal experience that Tom has the commitment, judgment and temperament to perform not just competently but to excel in the position. In his public service in Montgomery County and then at the State of Maryland, Tom demonstrated time and again that to him the American ideals of fairness and equality before the law are not abstract principles, but principles for our government and culture to live by. He is an impassioned and engaging speaker about them and is dogged about lawfully pursuing them, whether through legislation, litigation, or public advocacy.

Tom is a natural leader, inspiring by his example, his intellect, his wit and his personality. I have known Tom since he became a member of the Montgomery County Council in 2002. At the time, I was the full-time president of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Washington area's regional chamber of commerce. I got to observe Tom Perez at close range. We agreed on many, but not all issues. I can tell you that, while Tom never wavers from his principles, he listens to other viewpoints, works hard to forge coalitions and is an effective broker as well as advocate in negotiations.

I was chief of staff to the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, have been an appointee in the Federal Government and have been active in local and regional Washington area public policy. I have seen a wide range of executive branch leaders. Tom Perez has the talent and disposition to be among the best.

Tom presents a hard-to-match combination of experience and talent for this particular post. I hope you will swiftly and decisively recommend Tom Perez's confirmation to the Senate.

These views are of course my own and do not necessarily express the opinion of my firm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Peck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Peck" being more legible than the middle initial "A".

Robert A. Peck  
Managing Director