



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

May 20, 2013

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

Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking
Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS
1516 P Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

Re: Support for Tony West as Associate Attorney General

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member:

The President has nominated Tony West to be the Associate Attorney General for the United States. On behalf of the National Congress of American Indians I write to express our strong support and to urge that the Senate take action to confirm his nomination as soon as possible.

Mr. West is extraordinarily qualified to serve in this role. A long-time Department of Justice attorney, he is serving as Acting Associate Attorney General and previously served as the head of the Civil Division, the Department's largest litigating division. You will find him to be both an excellent attorney and a superior manager.

Mr. West has been particularly supportive on issues of importance to Indian tribes. We have particularly appreciated his work on the Violence Against Women Act, his focus on ensuring greater outreach to Native people under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, his work to resolve the long-running Cobell litigation on Indian trust funds, and the Keepseagle litigation on discrimination against Native American farmers. He has been to several NCAI meetings and has been very well-received by the tribal leadership.

We are reminded of Mr. West's serious efforts towards justice for Native Americans. We are confident that he will bring this same unwavering commitment to justice for all Americans to his work as Associate Attorney General. Thank you for considering this request. We greatly appreciate your leadership on matters affecting Indian tribes and your service to the United States.

Sincerely,

Jefferson Keel