



OFFICE OF THE FORMER GOVERNOR
OF PUERTO RICO

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May 17, 2013

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

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Minority Member, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

After twelve years of public service to Puerto Rico culminating in becoming the first Republican to be elected Governor of Puerto Rico in four decades, I am a voice to the nearly four million American citizens who call Puerto Rico home. I write to express my strong support of the nomination of Tony West to become the Associate Attorney General of the United States.

I came to know Mr. West well in his capacity as a Co-Chair of the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico and Co-Chair of the Task Force's Public Safety Working Group. During my tenure as governor, he was a consistent and effective advocate for ensuring a more comprehensive federal response to the violence perpetrated by drug trafficking networks operating in Puerto Rico, including initiatives to protect our shores more effectively. Mr. West is leading the Administration's efforts to implement the recommendations set forth in the Task Force's Report by engaging key stakeholders in Puerto Rico and across the federal government to address the issue of drug related violent crime on the island.

Furthermore, Mr. West has been a vocal member of the Task Force regarding Puerto Rico's political status. Mr. West showed me his commitment to the principle that political status is a topic of self-determination for the American citizens residing in Puerto Rico. Mr. West has been

a leader in the Task Force, as well as in relations with Congress and the leaders at the state level, in creating a permanent solution to Puerto Rico's political status.

Mr. West has combined his legal experience, knowledge of the region, and effective leadership style to successfully champion the Department's efforts to strengthen the Administration's response to the needs of the American citizens living in Puerto Rico. For the above reasons, I hope that the Senate will promptly confirm Mr. West to serve as the Associate Attorney General for the United States.

Sincerely,



Luis G. Fortuño