



July 12, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Alaska Native Organizations and Individuals Letter of Support for Nomination of  
Myrna Pérez for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin, and Ranking  
Member Grassley:

We, the undersigned Alaska Native organizations and individuals, write to express our strongest support of Myrna Pérez's confirmation as a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

At first glance, it may seem unusual for organizations and individuals representing the First Peoples of Alaska to recommend the confirmation of a nominee for a federal appellate court that sits thousands of miles away in Connecticut, New York, and Vermont. But Ms. Pérez is a truly extraordinary candidate whose advocacy to secure equal access to the political process for all Americans has had a sweeping impact for Alaska Native voters in even the most remote villages.

For several years Ms. Pérez has bridged political divides to build consensus on improving access to the political process, working with policymakers of all political leanings and affiliations. Her efforts have had an exceptionally far reach. Through her advocacy before legislative bodies and the courts, her groundbreaking work has facilitated the participation of indigenous peoples in non-tribal elections throughout the United States. Her leadership and support for removing the most


basic obstacles to participation for many Native peoples, including language and literacy, is evidenced in the growing vibrancy of the Native vote.

Ms. Pérez is a champion of the sovereignty of Native Nations, the need to preserve their culture and language, and the importance of recognizing their contributions to our system of government. Her passion extends from her own personal story, as the daughter of Mexican immigrants. She is deeply respectful of the values of all Americans, whether they are newer arrivals or among America's First Peoples. Her substantial experience working with people of all races and ethnicities has helped her develop a keen understanding that will serve our country well on the federal bench.

The commitment that Ms. Pérez has to doing justice throughout her professional career is matched by her incomparable brilliance as a lawyer, policymaker and researcher. Equally important, her world revolves around her family and her devout faith. We could not ask for a finer candidate for any government office, much less an appointment to one of the most prestigious appellate positions on the federal bench.

It is our fervent hope that Ms. Pérez be swiftly confirmed, so she can bring her talent, wisdom, faithful commitment to the rule of law and her unparalleled judicial temperament to the Second Circuit.

We, the undersigned Alaska Native organizations and individuals, are proud to lend our support to Ms. Pérez's nomination.



Liz La quen náay Medicine Crow  
(Haida/Tlingit)  
President/Chief Executive Officer  
First Alaskans Institute



Kendra Kloster  
(Tlingit)  
Executive Director  
Native Peoples Action