

## **LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE**

?ə?4xwə nəxwsxayəm "Strong People"

2851 Lower Elwha Road Phone: 360.452.8471 Port Angeles, WA 98363 Fax: 360.452.3428

## Via email

June 10, 2021

Senator Richard Durbin, Chairman Senate Committee on the Judiciary Washington, DC 20510 Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member Senate Committee on the Judiciary Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for Confirmation of Lauren J. King as U.S. District Court Judge

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, a treaty tribe located in northwest Washington State, is pleased and proud to express our strongest possible support for the swift confirmation of Seattle attorney Lauren J. King as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. We applaud President Biden for this historic nomination. As you know, Ms. King is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, and when confirmed would become only the third native woman on the federal bench.

Ms. King is extremely well qualified for this position, in terms of legal excellence and experience as well as judicial temperament. Our Tribe and our own attorneys know her best through her representation of several Indian tribal governments, sometimes as an ally and sometimes as an opponent. She has always displayed consummate professionalism and patience toward allies and opponents alike. She has handled a wide array of legal matters in her Seattle-based legal practice, including commercial litigation as well as tribal, natural resources, and land use matters, at the trial and appellate level. She has also served as an inter-tribal appellate judge and on numerous professional boards. She has taught Indian law subjects at one of the Seattle law schools and at numerous continuing education seminars. She is highly intelligent, always well prepared, and liked and respected by her peers.

Lauren King will be an outstanding addition to the federal district court in Seattle, which includes roughly 26 Indian tribes within its jurisdiction. While she will be an even-handed and thoughtful jurist for all who come before her, her background in Indian law will underscore the

increasing importance of that area of law in the business of the Court and the society it serves. The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe appreciates that the Judiciary Committee has conducted a hearing, and urges that Ms. King's nomination be advanced to the full Senate for confirmation at the earliest possible time.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, including any you may have for our Tribal Attorneys who have worked with her.

Sincerely,

Frances G. Charles, Chairwoman Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Frances S. Charle

Cc: Senator Patty Murray Senator Maria Cantwell