



Oglala Sioux Tribe
P.O. Box 2070, Pine Ridge, S.D. 57770
Direct: 605-867-8487 - Cell Phone: 605-407-1231
Fax: 605-867-6076
E-mail: kevink@oglala.org



Office of the President
Kevin Killer

March 11, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Chairman
The Honorable Charles Grassley, Vice-Chairman
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-152
Washington, D.C. 20510
Delivered via Electronic Mail

Re: Support for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Position of Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, I write to you to express our strong support for the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the position of Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The Tribe asks you to confirm her to the position.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has had a stellar legal career since graduating from Harvard Law School. She clerked at the federal district and appellate court levels and served as a law clerk for outgoing Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer. She has experience in both criminal and civil appellate practice and has herself advocated before the Court. Her nomination to the Court has garnered support from legal experts of both major political parties.

The American people need a federal bench that is reflective of the diversity of the United States. Today, almost three-quarters of sitting federal judges are men, and around eighty percent of sitting federal judges are white. The federal bench is under-representative of Indian Country, women, people of color, the LGBTQ community, non-Christian religions, and people with disabilities. Less than one-third of sitting judges are women, and only *six* Native Americans have ever been confirmed to the federal bench. One hundred and fifteen Justices have served on the Supreme Court, but only *five* have been women, and only *three* have been people of color.

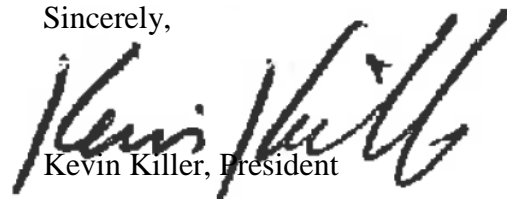
Indian Country also needs a Justice who will take the time to understand the unique histories and challenges of Tribal Nations. We are at all times fighting efforts to limit our inherent tribal sovereignty, and we regularly face threats to our homelands and our most

foundational laws. We need a legal mind to honor the promises the United States has made to Tribes and to uphold these treaties as the Supreme Law of the Land.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is a critical voice for underrepresented and disenfranchised voices in this Nation. Indian Country needs this voice and perspective as cases, such as those involving the Indian Child Welfare Act, are coming to the forefront. Furthermore, she served as the Vice Chair for the U.S. Sentencing Commission, after her nomination by President Obama and unanimous confirmation by the Senate. Indian Country needs a strong voice in matters of criminal justice reform, because frequently American Indian and Alaska Native peoples disproportionately bear the burdens of inequitable criminal laws and procedures. Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson knows these challenges given her experience on the Commission and on the front lines as a public defender. Finally, Indian Country also needs a Justice who will hold federal agencies accountable when they fail to make reasoned, non-arbitrary decisions, ensuring compliance with the mandates of the Administrative Procedure Act, a law which fundamentally ensures that agencies must consider the consequences of their actions.

In truth, our Tribe dreams of the day that a Native American will advocate for Indian Country issues before a Native American Justice of the United States Supreme Court. However, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson represents another historically disadvantaged and underrepresented voice in this nation. Most significantly, she has had an exemplary traditional legal career that makes her exceptionally qualified for the position of Associate Justice. Her confirmation to the Supreme Court represents a long-overdue next step for the federal bench, ushering in a new era of greater diversity and more inclusive representation of the American people. We ask that you support her nomination and confirm her to the position of Associate Justice on the United States Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Killer".

Kevin Killer, President

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary