

# Coalitions for America

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Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
Chairman

Hon. Strom Thurmond  
Ranking Member

Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators:

We write to express our strong support for President Bush's nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas to be an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Judge Thomas sees a vigorous yet defined role for the judiciary. He wrote in 1989 of "a judiciary active in defending the Constitution, but judicious in its restraint and moderation." The courts, in his view, are one of several players in our political system. Legislatures, both federal and state, are another.

As the *Washington Post* (7/14/91, p.C3) recently observed, states are increasingly having to grapple with serious issues and problems we once thought the federal government or an unelected judiciary would handle for us. In many ways, however, this avoids the accountability that is essential to a vital and participatory political process.

We believe that with Judge Thomas on the Supreme Court, the political process will be more active, all people will have more choice about how they wish to be governed, and we as state legislators will be able to do our job better. Wholly apart from his views on specific issues, Judge Thomas' judicial philosophy gives the people more of a say in how things are run. Self-government, after all, is the genius of America.

Judge Thomas brings a virtually unique set of personal and professional qualities to the Supreme Court. He is literally a product of the American dream. We urge your committee and the full Senate to consent to his appointment.

Sincerely,