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Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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NEREIDA "NELLIE" RIVERA-O'REILLY
Senator

June 12, 2009

COMMITTEES:
Financial Services, Infrastructure
and Consumer Affairs
Education, Youth and Culture
Labor and Agriculture
Economic Development,
Energy and Technology

The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
433 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Chairman Leahy:

As the only Latina Senator serving in the 28th Legislature of the US Virgin Islands, I write this letter in support of President Obama's nomination of Sonia Sotomayor to serve as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Judge Sotomayor possesses an unparalleled depth and breadth of judicial knowledge and practice.

Judge Sotomayor's judicial experience and reputation make her an undeniable asset to the Supreme Court. She serves as a beacon of hope and is a testament to all children that hard work and perseverance can lead to success, despite perceived roadblocks. The combination of her awe-inspiring background and highly regarded professionalism has ignited a rallying cry to confirm Sotomayor's nomination, a cry which transcends race, gender, socioeconomic status, and nationality.

I am certain the decision to confirm the next Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court will not come lightly, and will be based on the highly selective criteria by which all nominees are subjected. It is important to note, however, the historical significance of her ethnicity and gender. Judge Sotomayor will be the first Latina to serve as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and the third woman ever, if her nomination is confirmed by the Senate. My hope for her confirmation rests in the hands of the Senate.

Respectfully,


Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly

cc: All Members of Judiciary Committee
Honorable Donna M. Christensen, USVI Delegate to Congress