



National Latino Coalition
on Climate Change

June 15, 2009

The United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

We write to you today to express our strongest support for the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court of the United States. Her strong record and inspiring story make her an ideal justice, and we ask for your help in ensuring a prompt confirmation.

As the Supreme Court nominee with the most experience on the federal bench, Judge Sotomayor has proven herself to be thoughtful, intelligent and fair-minded. She would bring more federal judicial experience to the Court than any justice in the past century. Her career as a prosecutor, litigator and judge leave no doubt about her qualifications for the highest court in the land.

As the first Latina nominee to the Supreme Court, Judge Sotomayor would break an important barrier for Hispanics in the United States. This historic nomination makes Judge Sotomayor an important role model for millions of Americans from all backgrounds.

In her life experience, Judge Sotomayor embodies the American dream. Growing up in a South Bronx housing project with Puerto Rican parents, Judge Sotomayor was raised from age nine by a single mother, excelling in school and working her way through the best universities in the country. Her commitment to hard work and the rule of law will no doubt continue as she joins the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court plays an extremely vital role in directing the law surrounding issues like clean air, clean water, public lands and global warming. Judge Sotomayor would become the justice with arguably the best environmental credentials of anyone nominated to the Supreme Court in the modern environmental era. As a judge on the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, she wrote a decision later overturned by the Supreme Court -- that the Environmental Protection Agency was not permitted to use "cost-benefit" calculations to grant public utilities the right to continue to postpone installing equipment that would protect fisheries from power plant cooling-system intakes.

President Obama's historic nomination of Judge Sotomayor reaffirms the importance of selecting nominees in all branches of government that reflect America's diversity. Our different backgrounds strengthen us in our efforts to protect the natural and human environment, and we look forward to decades of exemplary public service from Judge Sotomayor.

The National Latino Coalition on Climate Change and the Sierra Club strongly urge you to quickly approve the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court so she can continue to uphold the constitution and serve this country with distinction.

Sincerely,

Carl Pope
Sierra Club Executive Director

Dr. Gabriela Lemus
Chair, National Latino Coalition on Climate Change