



John M. Kane
President and CEO

April 17, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlin Specter
Ranking Member
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Leahy and Specter:

Please accept this letter as my endorsement of Mr. Thomas E. Perez as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. I first met Tom when he was a member of the Montgomery County, Maryland County Council. In his capacity as a member of the County Council, he showed a true willingness to work closely with Republicans and Democrats alike and emphasized an open-mindedness that was refreshing. I met often with Tom to discuss a variety of issues affecting the livelihood of Montgomery County residents in the state of Maryland. Never once did a discussion lead to partisan politics, and more often than not, we both walked away better informed and educated.

My relationship with Mr. Perez developed further as I became Chairman of the Maryland Republican Party from 2002-2006. Over the course of those four years, we would meet on occasion to review the political landscape in the state of Maryland. We would discuss business issues, wherein he regularly showed a willingness to listen, as well as, bring different stakeholders to the table to work on issues outside the realm of partisan politics. A few folks thought it odd that a leading Democrat on the County Council of Montgomery County, Maryland maintained such a strong relationship with the chair of the Maryland Republican Party. What most of them did not understand was that with Mr. Perez, it was never about politics, but about policy and what was best for those he served.

His prior experience of working at the Justice Department, being involved in local politics dealing with the daily challenges local government, and his current role as Secretary of the Department of Licensing and Regulation, gives him a unique perspective to be able to serve, if confirmed, as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED].

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Kane
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