



ALL INDIAN PUEBLO COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN JOE A. GARCIA

VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY T. ORTIZ

February 3, 2010

Senator Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
Hart Sen. Ofc. Bldg., Room 522
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
Russell Sen. Ofc. Bldg., Rm. 361-A
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jeff Sessions
Ranking, Senate Judiciary Comm.
224 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Confirmation of Mary Smith as DOJ Assistant Attorney General

Dear Senators Reid, McConnell, Leahy and Sessions:

On behalf of the All Indian Pueblo Council (AIPC), representing 20 Pueblo Indian Nations in New Mexico and Texas, I write to express our support for the confirmation of Mary L. Smith as Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Ms. Smith is an accomplished litigator who has the skills to succeed as the head of the Tax Division. Having worked as a trial attorney in the DOJ Civil Division (where she never lost a case), she understands the Justice Department as an institution and the perspective of the career staff. Not to mention, she has an incredible work ethic and more litigation and management experience than many of her predecessors. She has worked at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, and also served as a partner at Schoeman, Updike, Kaufman & Scharf LLP, a woman-owned firm. In addition, she was the in-house attorney responsible for managing a large multi-district litigation at Tyco International.

In addition to her impressive legal credentials, Ms. Smith is also a dedicated member of the Native American community. Over her career, she has worked tirelessly to improve the visibility and access of Native Americans in the legal profession and to advance Native American civil rights. Ms. Smith is a member of the Cherokee Nation and, if confirmed, would be the first Native American to hold the rank of Assistant Attorney General in the 140-year life of the Department of Justice. In fact, she would be the highest ranking Native American in DOJ history.

Ms. Smith is a first-rate attorney whose experience spans government, private practice and the private sector. AIPC is confident that she possesses the skills, experience, and

high degree of professionalism required to succeed as the first ever Native American Assistant Attorney General at the DOJ, and we respectfully urge her swift confirmation.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.A.G.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe A. Garcia
Chairman, All Indian Pueblo Council