

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL

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Attorney General of Idaho

January 14, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
Via facsimile (202)-224-9516

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
Via facsimile (202)-224-9102

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

As the chief law enforcement officers of our respective states, we write to express our support for the nomination of Eric H. Holder, Jr. for Attorney General of the United States. As the Nation's chief law enforcement officer, he will set policies for how the Federal government relates to and works with us as well as with other state, county and local prosecutors and law enforcement officers within our jurisdictions. We believe that Mr. Holder has the knowledge and experience necessary to run the Department of Justice and work with us to enforce our laws.

Mr. Holder is a known quantity to some of us. Having served as the Deputy Attorney General from 1999-2001, he worked hard to assure that our concerns were answered and the partnerships we sought were established. We look forward to working with him again. He also served as United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. Although a Federal prosecutor serving by appointment of the President, this is a unique position in America because this United States Attorney is responsible for local prosecutions in the District.

We are also encouraged because Mr. Holder started his legal work as a career prosecutor in the Department of Justice's Public Integrity Section and was then appointed by the first President Bush to the District of Columbia Superior Court. Throughout his career, Mr. Holder has displayed the fairness and balance which is so important in a person who will wield such vast power and authority.

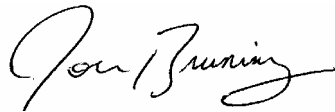
As our Nation's economy suffers, we are deeply concerned that, along with unemployment, crime will rise as well. We fully appreciate that funds are limited, but we know that Mr. Holder will work, as he did as Deputy Attorney General, to provide funding for state and local law enforcement so that we and our colleagues at the state and local level can be effective in our mission.

Therefore, we urge you to confirm the nomination of Eric H. Holder, Jr. for Attorney General.


Sincerely,



Tom Miller
Attorney General of Iowa



Jon Bruning
Attorney General of Nebraska



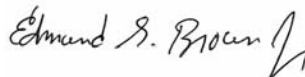
Patrick Lynch
Attorney General of Rhode Island



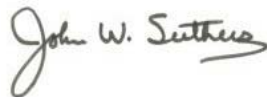
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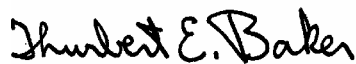
Richard Blumenthal
Attorney General of Connecticut



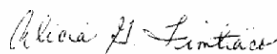
Richard S. Gebelein
Acting Attorney General of Delaware



Bill McCollum
Attorney General of Florida



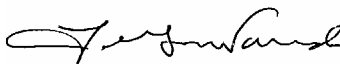
Thurbert E. Baker
Attorney General of Georgia



Alicia G. Limtiaco
Attorney General of Guam



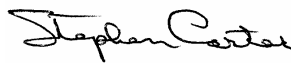
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Attorney General of Maryland

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