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URGENT ACTION ALERT

DATE: January 23, 2009
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

Call your Senators Toll Free



Senate Judiciary Committee Delays Final Vote on Eric Holder's Nomination to be the Next Attorney General for One Week

at 1-866-346-7779

VOTE WILL NOW TAKE PLACE NEXT WEDNESDAY, 1/28/09

THE ISSUE:

As is their right under the rules of the United States Senate, the Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee have delayed a final vote on the nomination of Eric Holder to be U.S. Attorney General for one week. Thus, the final vote will be next Wednesday, January 28, after which the nomination will come before the full US Senate. While this delay is regrettable, we must use this time to advocate on behalf of confirming Mr. Holder.

Eric Holder, who has been nominated by President-elect Barack Obama to serve as Attorney General of the United States, is clearly the right person for the job. The Department of Justice has, for the past 8 years, been woefully mismanaged, and as a result it has not adequately protected Americans' voting, housing or employment rights; nor has it even attempted to address police misconduct or a whole host of other issues to ensure that our rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are protected.

Through his historic nomination of Eric Holder (if confirmed Eric Holder will be the first African American U.S. Attorney General in history) President-elect Obama has selected someone who has, throughout his career, demonstrated a commitment to justice, an even-handed nature, and an ability to lead. In addition to serving as the Deputy Attorney General under Janet Reno and leading the transition from Ms. Reno to her successor, Attorney General John Ashcroft, Eric Holder has served as the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, as a Superior Court Judge nominated by Ronald Reagan and as a trial attorney in the Public Integrity section of the Department of Justice. Mr. Holder knows the U.S. Department of Justice and knows what needs to and can be done, and is clearly the best candidate to swiftly and competently restore and reinvigorate the beleaguered department.

A toll free phone number, 1-866-346-7779, will be available beginning on Monday, January 26 at 7:00 am EDT to call Senators to urge them to support Mr. Holder. A full list of Senators who are on the Judiciary Committee, along with their states, is attached; the number again is 1-866-346-7779. The NAACP is urging everybody to call their Senator in support of Mr. Holder, with a special emphasis on people who live in states that are represented by members of the Committee.

More...

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact both your Senators and **URGE THEM TO STRONGLY SUPPORT THE QUICK CONFIRMATION OF ERIC HOLDER TO SERVE AS THE NEXT ATTORNEY GENERAL.** To contact your Senators, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators toll-free between Monday, January 26 and Wednesday, January 28 (the day of the Committee vote at **1-866-346-7779** (see message section, below).

~~**Write a Letter**~~

~~To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510~~

**A SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

Send a Fax

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on "*Find Your Senators*". Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!

THE MESSAGE

- Eric Holder, who has been nominated by President-elect Barack Obama to serve as Attorney General of the United States, is the right man for the job.
- We need an Attorney General who is committed to protecting the rights of all Americans, including voting, employment and housing rights, as well as someone who will use the powers of the U. S. Department of Justice to address the continuing plague of police misconduct throughout our Nation.
- Throughout his career Eric Holder has demonstrated a commitment to justice, an even-handed nature, and an ability to lead as has been demonstrated by his nominations to serve by both Republican and Democratic presidents.
- Mr. Holder knows the U.S. Department of Justice and knows what needs to and can be done, and is clearly the best candidate to swiftly and competently restore and reinvigorate the beleaguered department.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.

To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naACP.org

**No time
to send
a letter!
Call, fax
or
e-mail
TODAY!**

Sample Letter

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR ERIC HOLDER TO SERVE AS THE NEXT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dear Senator _____;

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to support the historic nomination of Eric Holder to be the next Attorney General of the United States. Mr. Holder is the most qualified of nominees for Attorney General in memory and there is no doubt that he will lead the U.S. Department of Justice, and the United States, with an integrity and strength that is sorely needed at this time.

Mr. Holder is uniquely qualified for this position. Not only did he serve the nation and the Department of Justice with unqualified success as Deputy Director under Attorney General Janet Reno, but he also led a smooth and successful transition team between the Clinton and Bush administrations. Furthermore, throughout his career not only as Deputy Director of the Department of Justice and as the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, as Associate Judge for the Superior Court for the District of Columbia and as a trial attorney in the Public Integrity section of the Department of Justice Mr. Holder has demonstrated a willingness to use his independent judgment along with his even-handed nature to advance the principles of justice and the Constitution that is admirable.

Our nation, and especially our racial and ethnic minority citizens, is clearly facing a crisis in confidence that the US Department of Justice is not a true defender of our rights. Eric Holder is the right person at this time to rebuild not only the Department, but also our country's reputation as a defender of the rights of all Americans to pursue the Constitutional promises of life, liberty and happiness.

Thus, I urge you again, in the strongest terms possible, to swiftly and resoundingly confirm Eric Holder to be the next Attorney General of these United States. Please contact me in the near future to let me know what you intend to do regarding this vital nomination and what I can do to assist you in seeing Mr. Holder confirmed.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)

*Remember to contact
BOTH your Senators.*

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Patrick Leahy, *Chairman*, Vermont

Arlen Specter, *Ranking Republican Member*, Pennsylvania

Herb Kohl, Wisconsin

Dianne Feinstein, California

Russell Feingold, Wisconsin

Charles Schumer, New York

Richard Durbin, Illinois

Benjamin Cardin, Maryland

Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island

Ron Wyden, Oregon

Amy Klobucher, Minnesota

Edward Kaufman, Delaware

Orrin Hatch, Utah

Charles Grassley, Iowa

Jon Kyl, Arizona

Jeff Sessions, Alabama

Lindsey Graham, South Carolina

John Cornyn, Texas

Tom Coburn, Oklahoma