



April 13, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Todd Kim to be Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), and National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), we strongly support the nomination and swift confirmation of Todd Kim to be Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Mr. Kim is a first-rate legal mind and dedicated public servant who currently serves as Deputy General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Energy and oversees litigation, regulation, and enforcement for the agency. He is well qualified to serve as head of ENRD.

After clerking for the Honorable Judith Rogers on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Mr. Kim served as an attorney in the appellate section of ENRD where he argued appeals on behalf of the United States in all thirteen U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals. He will be ready on his first day. During his prior service, Mr. Kim represented and gained intimate familiarity with the breadth of ENRD's varied portfolio, which spans 10 sections and includes prevention and cleanup of pollution, land acquisition, protection of wildlife, management of public lands, protecting the rights and resources of federally recognized Indian tribes and their members and criminal prosecution, to name a few. For his service, he received the Gold Medal from the Environmental Protection Agency and multiple Outstanding Performance Awards from the Department of Justice.

In 2006, Mr. Kim was selected to serve as the first-ever Solicitor General for the District of Columbia in which he served in that position for over 11 years. As DC Solicitor General, he personally handled significant cases in the appellate courts and received two "Best Brief" awards from the National Association of Attorneys General for outstanding Supreme Court briefs.

In private practice, Mr. Kim served as a partner in the appellate group at Reed Smith and as Office Market Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Mr. Kim is a strong supporter of diversity and inclusion. In addition to chairing the Diversity and Inclusion Committee at Reed Smith, Mr. Kim is also active in the Asian American community, and is a member of NAPABA and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington DC area.

Todd Kim is well qualified to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division at the U.S. Department of Justice and we strongly support his nomination.

Sincerely,



John C. Yang
President & Executive Director
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC



Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke
President & CEO
Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies



Priya Purandare
Executive Director
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association



Gregg Orton
National Director
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Advancing Justice | AAJC is a national non-profit, non-partisan organization that works through policy advocacy, education, and litigation to advance the civil and human rights of Asian Americans and to build and promote a fair and equitable society for all. Founded in 1991, Advancing Justice | AAJC is one of the nation's leading experts on civil rights issues of importance to the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community including immigration and immigrants' rights, census, hate incidents, language access, technology and telecommunications, and voting rights.

Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies

The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) is a national non-partisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting Asian Pacific American participation and representation at all levels of the political process, from community service to elected office. APAICS programs focus on developing leadership, building public policy knowledge, and filling the political pipeline for Asian Pacific Americans to pursue public office at the local, state, and federal levels.

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) represents the interests of approximately 50,000 legal professionals and nearly 90 national, state, and local Asian Pacific American bar associations. NAPABA is a leader in addressing civil rights issues confronting Asian Pacific American communities. Through its national network, NAPABA provides a strong voice for increased diversity of the federal and state judiciaries, advocates for equal opportunity in the workplace, works to eliminate hate crimes and anti-immigrant sentiment, and promotes the professional development of people of color in the legal profession.

National Council of Asian Pacific Americans

Established in 1996, NCAPA is a coalition of some of the largest national Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) organizations around the country. Based in Washington, D.C., NCAPA works to represent the interests of the greater AANHPI community, including the East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. NCAPA's members also include organizations that work in civil rights, immigration, health, education, and housing and economic justice.