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DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

January 31, 2014

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary
United States Senate
226 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on Judiciary
United States Senate
226 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Debo Adegbile

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

I hope you are well. Continued thanks for your service.

I am sure you are awash in letters supporting the nomination of Debo Adegbile for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. He is an experienced, thoughtful and in every way able candidate for the post.

Nonetheless I wanted to add the perspective of one who once held the position for which Mr. Adegbile has been nominated, having also worked at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Thanks to that experience, I came to the post at Justice with a grounding in the substantive law. I also understood that views I might have had as an

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advocate would, if ever in conflict, have to yield to the role of an AAG as an enforcer of the law. For example, the Congress reinstated the federal death penalty while I was AAG; and while I had worked in opposition to the death penalty at LDF, I understood that my role in the Justice Department, and my oath, required me to enforce the law. I am confident Mr. Adegbile can and will approach the position with that same respect for duty.

Mr. Adegbile will make a fine AAG. I hope you will give him your favorable and prompt consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick J. Leahy", written in a cursive style.