



MUCKLESHOOT TRIBAL COUNCIL

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May 18, 2021

Chair Dick Durbin
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Chuck Grassley
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for confirmation of Lauren King as a federal judge in the Western District of Washington

Chair Durbin & Ranking Member Grassley:

I write on behalf of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (“Tribe”) to urge the Committee on the Judiciary to support the nomination of Lauren King as a federal judge to the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington.

The Muckleshoot Tribe’s ancestral territory is centered within the Western District of Washington. The Tribe, like most tribes, is uniquely impacted by federal courts because much of what is known as federal Indian law, is actually federal common law. Therefore, federal judges have a profound impact on tribal sovereign rights through their interpretations of law, treaties, and other agreements.

Ms. King is a well-qualified nominee, and her resume speaks for itself. She holds a B.A. in Business Administration from the University of Washington and a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia Law School. She has worked at several large law firms, and is currently a partner at Foster Garvey PC. Ms. King serves as an appellate judge for the Northwest Intertribal Court System and as a commissioner on the Washington State Gambling Commission.

Ms. King has the credentials to serve as a federal judge, but she has something more, a different perspective. Indian Country’s voice has been largely absent on the federal bench. Ms. King’s expertise in federal Indian law will benefit the court, but her life experience will benefit those that appear before it. As a Native American woman (Muscogee Creek Nation), she will bring her life experiences with her as she views important matters before the court. This will benefit litigants and ensure that the diverse perspectives of all Americans are visible from the federal bench.

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe urges to you to take up, and support, the nomination of Lauren King to serve as a federal judge on the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Elkins', written in a cursive style.

Jaison Elkins