



June 14, 2021

Senator Richard Durbin, Chairman  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-711  
Washington, DC 20510

[phillip\\_brest@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:phillip_brest@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)

Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-135  
Washington, DC 20510

[michael\\_fragoso@judiciary-rep.senate.gov](mailto:michael_fragoso@judiciary-rep.senate.gov)

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing on behalf of Native Peoples Action (NPA), an Indigenous led non-profit organization that works to uplift Indigenous voices across Alaska and the Nation. We take direction and work with our Tribes and community leaders, and it is with this responsibility and gratitude that we would like to express our support for the nomination and confirmation of Lauren J. King to serve as a Judge on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Ms. King is a highly respected attorney with impeccable qualifications for the federal bench. She is an experienced litigator who has handled a wide range of federal litigation, including complex commercial transactions, intellectual property, treaty rights, cultural resources protections, and tribal jurisdiction. In addition, she has served since 2013 as a pro-tem appellate judge for the Northwest Intertribal Court System, where she heard appeals on a broad range of issues, including commercial disputes, employment matters, and sovereign immunity.

It is critical that federal judges better reflect the communities they serve and understand the unique histories of Native peoples and the often complex areas of Indian law. Washington State is home to twenty-nine federally recognized Tribes, making it even more imperative the experience of Ms. King, a citizen of the Muscogee Nation, is brought to the federal judiciary.

NPA is committed to achieving a federal judiciary whose members understand the unique legal status of Tribes in our Constitutional framework, and who can approach issues that affect Indian Country from an informed perspective. The federal judiciary regularly makes decisions that have a lasting impact on daily life in Tribal communities. Federal Indian law is often complex, and Tribal governments regularly find



themselves party to federal court proceedings. Yet few federal judges have ever visited a Native American or Alaska Native community or a Tribal court, let alone lived or worked in them. Therefore, we believe that Ms. King, with her knowledge of and experience with Native communities, would be a valuable addition to the federal judiciary.

We urge the United States Senate to confirm Ms. Lauren King. We appreciate your consideration.

Gunalchéesh/Háw'aa/Quyana/Mahsi'/Baasee'/Maasee'/Dogedinh/Thank you,

*Kendra Kloster*

Kendra Kloster  
Executive Director  
Native Peoples Action