



**Seattle Indian Health Board**

*For the Love of Native People*

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Esther Lucero  
President & CEO  
Seattle Indian Health Board

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

May 25, 2021

Dear Chairman Durbin,

The Seattle Indian Health Board (SIHB) strongly supports the nomination of Lauren King, JD of the Muscogee Nation, and ask that you support her confirmation as Judge on the U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington. This ask aligns with support from the Muscogee Nation, National Native American Bar Association, National Congress of American Indians, and the Native American Rights Fund. Ms. King's background in Native American litigation has demonstrated she can navigate the social, economic, and political environment to serve as a federal judge for the Western District of Washington. We know that Lauren King will be an invaluable addition to the federal judiciary.

Ms. King's specialization in Native American treaty rights, construction disputes, intellectual property matters, commercial disputes, and matters involving protection of sacred sites makes her well-suited to serve as a federal judge in the Western District of Washington. Nationally, King is a member of the National Native American Bar Association, American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association of the Western District of Washington, Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, and is the Indian Law Section Conference Chair for the Federal Bar Association. Ms. King's prodigious litigation experience and legal expertise will complement the achievements of the Western District of Washington.

Ms. King has demonstrated her professional expertise and devotion to public service in Washington State and to the 29 federally recognized tribes within the state. She chaired the longest treaty rights trial in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington and successfully defended the trial victory in the Ninth Circuit and Supreme Court. King has previously served lead outside counsel in natural resource and treaty rights matters for the Quileute Tribe. Ms. King is Commissioner of the Washington State Gambling Commission, Secretary of the Northwest Tribal Court Judges Association, and serves as a pro tem appellate judge for the Northwest Intertribal Court System. She is the former Chair of the Washington State Bar Association Indian Law Section Board, former adjunct professor of Federal Indian Law at Seattle University School of Law, and a former board member for SIHB. Ms. King's eclectic background has prepared her to serve the best interests of Washingtonians.

Ms. King has a unique understanding of legal principles for American Indians and Alaska Natives in Washington State. Of the 890 authorized federal United States judgeships, only two of the active positions are held by Native Americans. Beyond the Honorable Diane Humetewa (AZ) and Honorable Ada Brown (TX), only two other Native Americans have served as federal judges in the history of the federal judiciary. Ms. King would be the third active Native American federal district court judge in the United States and the first Native American federal judge in Washington.

We thank you for acknowledging Ms. King's professional merit and the underrepresentation of American Indian and Alaska Native expertise within the federal judiciary. SHIB fully supports the nomination and confirmation of Lauren King as a federal district court judge for the Western District of Washington. Thank you for your consideration of the information contained herein.

Respectfully,



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