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John Roberts

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

February 24, 2002

The Honorable Alberto R. Gonzales
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Judge Gonzales,

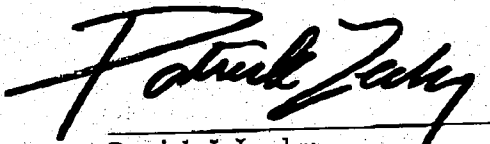
As you may know, Democratic Senators on the Judiciary Committee have been offered the opportunity to meet with Justice Deborah Cook and Mr. John Roberts in order to ask questions and discuss issues relevant to their nominations to lifetime appointments to United States Courts of Appeals. We are writing to let you know that some of us would like to accept those offers and meet with both of the nominees together before voting on their nominations.

We are available to meet as early as Wednesday, February 26, 2003, but are amenable to another mutually convenient time. For the purposes of review after the meeting, we will arrange for a stenographer to attend the meeting and record the exchanges with the nominees. We also anticipate that the meeting will be open to the public.

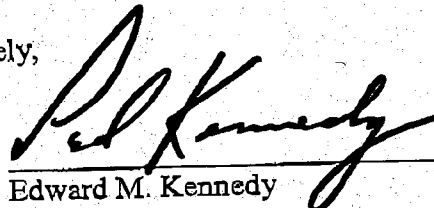
We hope that you and the Department of Justice will work with us to schedule this important meeting. Some of us believe the January 29, 2003, Committee hearing did not provide an adequate opportunity to ask the questions necessary for Senators to effectively carry out their Constitutional duty to advise and consent to judicial nominees. Written questions are not a satisfactory substitute for direct exchanges between Senators and the nominees.

Thank you for your assistance, and we look forward to the meeting we have requested.

Sincerely,

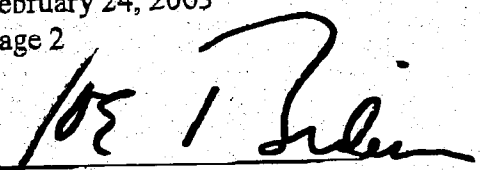


Patrick J. Leahy

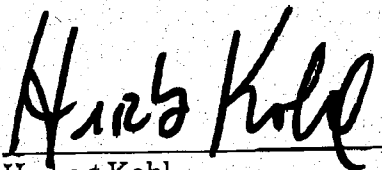


Edward M. Kennedy

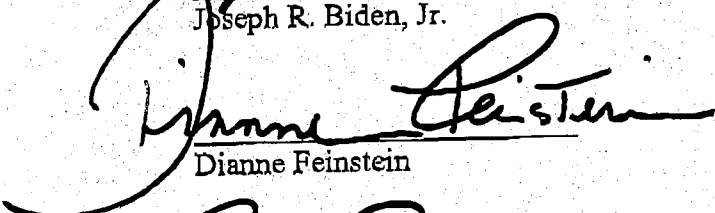
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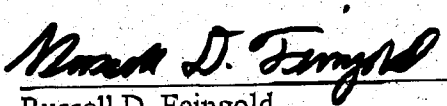
Joseph R. Biden, Jr.



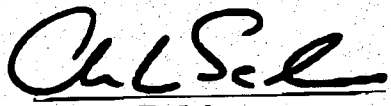
Herbert Kohl



Dianne Feinstein



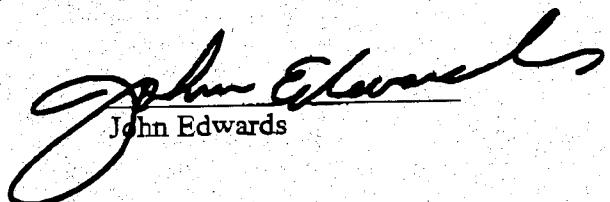
Russell D. Feingold



Charles E. Schumer



Richard J. Durbin



John Edwards

cc: Acting Assistant Attorney General Jamie E. Brown
Senator Orrin G. Hatch