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January 26, 2014

VIA E-MAIL

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

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Diane J. Humetewa to the U.S. District Court in Arizona

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

The National Native American Bar Association has endorsed the historic nomination of Diane Humetewa to the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona and strongly urges you to support her nomination. Ms. Humetewa is an attorney who has practiced law in Arizona for over fourteen years where her skills as a trial attorney are renowned. An enrolled member of the Hopi Tribe, she is both a native Arizonan and Native American. Ms. Humetewa is eminently qualified to be a federal district court judge. If confirmed, Ms. Humetewa will be the first Native American woman in the history of our nation to serve on the federal judiciary and will be the only current American Indian on the federal bench.

The National Native American Bar Association represents over 2,500 American Indian, Alaska Native and Hawaiian Native attorneys throughout the United States. There are currently no active federal judges who are American Indian. Of particular relevance, the State of Arizona has 22 Indian tribes within its borders, and yet there has never been an American Indian federal judge in the history of Arizona.

Ms. Humetewa has served in many positions in her career that have prepared her for elevation to the federal judiciary. From 2007 to 2009, after being nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Ms. Humetewa served as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona. In this role, she was – and continues to be – the first and only American Indian woman U.S. Attorney in the

history of our country. Previously, she worked in the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Arizona from 1996 to 2009, serving as Senior Litigation Counsel from 2001 to 2007. During her tenure in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Ms. Humetewa also served as Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General from 1996 to 1998. From 1993 to 1996, she was Deputy Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, working for Arizona's senior Senator John McCain.

Ms. Humetewa, who attended the Arizona State University School of Law, has also worked in a variety of other positions, including her current position as Special Advisor to the President and Special Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel at Arizona State University. Additionally, she is a Professor of Practice at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Ms. Humetewa has also been a private practitioner and a judge on the Hopi Appellate Court. She is considered a national expert on American Indian legal issues. She also has served as an ad hoc member of the Native American Subcommittee of the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Previously, she was appointed by the U.S. District Court to serve three terms as the Chair of the U.S. Magistrate Selection Committee.

Ms. Humetewa is well respected by all who have worked with her whether as co-counsel, opposing counsel, or litigants before her as Hopi Appellate Judge. She maintains the demeanor expected of trial judges in reaching fair and equitable decisions. Her writing skills are excellent, and she presents logical and cogent explanations for the legal conclusions that she reaches. Her ethics are beyond reproach and her diligence to duty is outstanding.

Ms. Humetewa enjoys bipartisan support for her nomination, and the National Native American Bar Association urges the swift confirmation of Diane J. Humetewa because her legal skills meet and exceed those required to be a federal district court judge.

Sincerely,



Mary Smith
President
National Native American Bar Association