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December 16, 2013

Senator Robert Menendez, Chair  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
444 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bob Corker, Ranking Member  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
444 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Confirmation of Keith Michael Harper**

Dear Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Corker:

On behalf of the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA), I write to urge you to swiftly confirm Keith Harper as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). An enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, Mr. Harper is also one of the leading Native American lawyers in the country. Mr. Harper is extremely well-qualified to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the UNHRC. If confirmed, Mr. Harper will be the first Native American and the first enrolled tribal member to serve as an Ambassador for the United States.

NNABA represents over 2,500 American Indian, Alaska Native and Hawaiian Native attorneys throughout the United States. There are currently no U.S. Ambassadors who are American Indian. Of particular relevance, the rights of indigenous peoples are often deliberated by the various bodies of the United Nations. Mr. Harper has worked to ensure that the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has been a prominent topic within the various United Nations human rights bodies. In September 2014, the U.N. General Assembly will be holding a World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and NNABA believes that, if confirmed, Mr. Harper's representation of the United States at this conference – as both an American Indian and a lawyer – will send a clear signal of our country's commitment to both the rights of indigenous peoples and the rule of law.

During his legal career, Mr. Harper has advocated for the civil rights and human rights of Native Americans in the United States and indigenous peoples around the globe. Mr. Harper is currently a partner at Kilpatrick, Townsend & Stockton, and he heads the Native American Practice Group at the firm. Following his graduation from law school at New York University School of Law, Mr. Harper clerked for the Honorable Lawrence W. Pierce of the United States Courts of Appeal for the Second Circuit. He then joined the Washington, D.C., office of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF). While at NARF, Mr. Harper represented the National Congress of American Indians in negotiations before the Organization of American States and the United Nations and was part of the delegation of the

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Leadership Conference on Civil Rights to the World Conference of Racism in Durban, South Africa. Mr. Harper has also served as Appellate Justice on the highest court of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and on the Supreme Court of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

In conclusion, NNABA enthusiastically supports the nomination of Keith Harper to be the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Council. We are confident that Mr. Harper will represent the United States with distinction, and we urge his expeditious confirmation. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at [marysmith828@hotmail.com](mailto:marysmith828@hotmail.com) or via cell at 202-236-0339.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Smith".

Mary Smith  
NNABA President 2013 - 2015