



BOB BARR

Member of Congress, 1995 - 2003

January 8, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

IN RE: Nomination of Hon. Eric Holder as Attorney General of the
United States

Mr. Chairman
Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

It is with a great deal of professional pride and personal pleasure that I write you in strong support of The Honorable Eric Holder to serve as Attorney General of the United States.

In the best of times, Eric Holder would be an excellent choice to serve as Attorney General. However, in these times of tremendous international and domestic turmoil, in which the line between military operations and law enforcement actions has become blurred to the point our precious civil liberties are at great risk, the choice of Mr. Holder could not be timelier or more crucial.

My awareness of Eric Holder dates back to my days as the presidentially-appointed United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia

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(1986-90), during which time Eric served in the Public Integrity Section of the Department of Justice and then as a Superior Court Judge for the District of Columbia. I knew him then by his excellent reputation. I dealt directly with Mr. Holder on several occasions during my tenure as a member of the House Judiciary Committee (1995-2003), when my service overlapped with that of Mr. Holder who served as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia and then, beginning in 1997, as the Deputy Attorney General.

Mr. Holder and I may have had disagreements over *policy* matters during the time he served in the administration of President Clinton. However, I never had reason to question his personal and professional integrity, or his deep understanding of and commitment to our Constitution and especially the Bill of Rights. I have always been impressed by his knowledge and understanding of the workings of the Department of Justice, including importantly the need for Department officials to serve the interests of *all* of the American people and not just those of the president they serve.

These attributes will greatly benefit Eric Holder if he is confirmed as Attorney General, particularly insofar as unfortunate actions of recent years have significantly harmed the morale of personnel at the Department of Justice. Rebuilding that morale at Main Justice and in U.S. Attorney offices across the country must be a top priority of the incoming administration; and Mr. Holder is masterfully equipped to do just that. Importantly, we can all have confidence he will do so with full and proper regard and respect for the Bill of Rights and our precious civil liberties as American citizens. In so doing, he will restore public confidence in the Department of Justice, which in recent years has dropped to a distressingly low level.

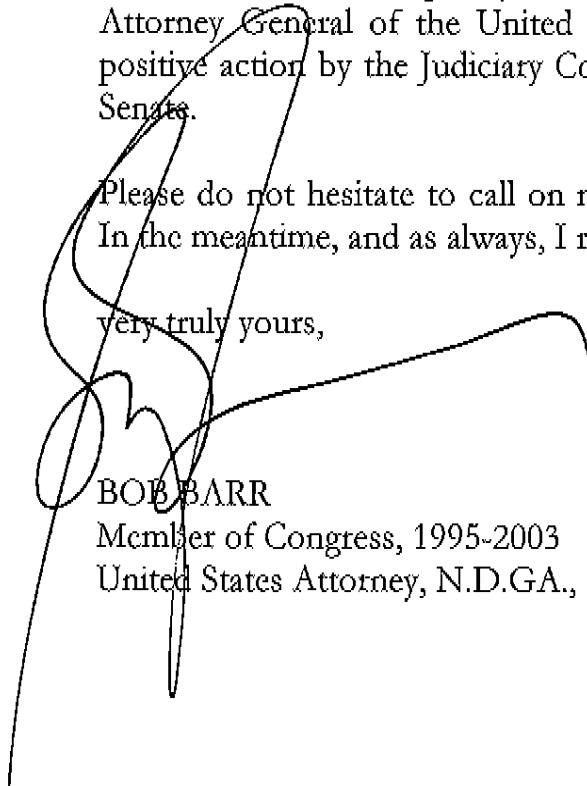
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In the years since leaving the Department of Justice and entering the world of private law practice, Eric Holder has continued to manifest these positive qualities, as I have had the pleasure of remaining in contact with him.

America will benefit greatly if Eric Holder is permitted to serve as Attorney General of the United States. I respectfully urge swift and positive action by the Judiciary Committee and confirmation by the full Senate.

Please do not hesitate to call on me if I might be of further assistance. In the meantime, and as always, I remain with warm personal regards,

very truly yours,



BOB BARR
Member of Congress, 1995-2003
United States Attorney, N.D.G.A., 1986-1990