Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2013

Dear Senators,

Recently, President Obama announced Thomas E. Perez as his choice for Secretary of Labor. Unfortunately, this nomination is just another example of President Obama's divisiveness and propensity to put politics ahead of good public policy. As the Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, Mr. Perez has accumulated an abusive and alarming record, and we urge you to oppose his pending nomination.

In a statement before the House Committee on the Judiciary on July 26, 2012, Mr. Perez said that the "Division's authority and responsibility to enforce federal voting rights laws ... is a sacred trust."[1] However, Mr. Perez has consistently shown himself to be discriminatory in his approach to enforcement of the law and, in fact, has ignored the law when it suited his political agenda.

In March of 2013, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice issued a highly critical review of the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division under Mr. Perez's control. The IG Review cites the "politically charged atmosphere and polarization within the Voting Section," "increasing backlog of [records] requests in the Voting Section," and the "dysfunctional management chain" under Mr. Perez. The IG Review also stated that the Voting Section's handling of the New Black Panther Party case under Mr. Perez "risked undermining confidence in the non-ideological enforcement of the voting rights laws."

In addition, Mr. Perez has used his position as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights to pursue frivolous lawsuits that have wasted millions of taxpayer dollars. Mr. Perez brought a lawsuit against a Florida pro-life counselor, Mary Susan Pine, where he alleged that she "interfered with a person seeking reproductive health services."[2] The federal judge, who ultimately dismissed the case against Ms. Pine, called the government conduct in the case "negligent, and perhaps even grossly negligent" and stated that he "is at a loss as to why the Government chose to prosecute this particular case in the first place." Subsequently, the government settled with Ms. Pine for $120,000. In a separate case, the DOJ lost its case against South Carolina over a state law requiring voters to show identification. This frivolous lawsuit cost South Carolina $3,500,000 to successfully defend.

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[1] Statement of Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division of the U.S Department of Justice, presented to the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, on July 26, 2012: http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/Hearings%202012/Perez%2007262012.pdf

[2] Eric H. Holder, Jr., Thomas E. Perez, et. al. v. Mary Susan Pine, Case 9:10-cv-80071, United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida: http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/spl/documents/FACE_Pine_Complaint.pdf

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Even more alarming than Mr. Perez's waste of taxpayer funds is his blatant disregard for the Constitution, Supreme Court rulings, and the rule of law. While serving as Assistant Attorney General, Mr. Perez led a lawsuit against the New York City Fire Department designed to force it to hire less-qualified applicants solely on the basis of race. Mr. Perez has used his authority to try to pressure Louisiana to inflate its voter rolls. Prior to becoming an Assistant Attorney General, Mr. Perez worked for Casa de Maryland, which trains illegal aliens on ways to avoid capture by the very government that Mr. Perez has now taken an oath to defend. These few examples demonstrate how Mr. Perez's contempt for equal justice under the law and his abuse of power has undermined the role of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. Cabinet members are at the table with the President, they lead agencies employing thousands of federal workers, they oversee massive budgets, and they implement policy that affects everyone in this country. The facts make it clear that Mr. Perez is entirely unsuitable to assume the power and responsibility that come with leading the Department of Labor.

We urge you to join Senators Vitter and Graham, who have publically spoken against Mr. Perez, in opposing his nomination. We need inclusive leadership that brings America together, but we keep getting the exact opposite from this White House. At a time when the American economy is struggling under the weight of President Obama's tax increases, the regulatory burdens of Obamacare, and the weakest labor force participation since 1979, the country cannot afford to have Thomas Perez in charge of the Department of Labor.

Sincerely,

Congressman Steve Scalise

Congressman Jim Jordan

Congressman Tom Price, M.D.

Congressman Marsha Blackburn

Congressman Patrick McHenry

Congressman Bill Flores

Congressman Sam Johnson

Congressman Mike Kelly

Congressman Tom McClintock

Congressman Kevin Brady

Congressman Kerry Bentivolio

Congressman Jim Bridenstine

Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

Congressman Tom Cole

Congressman Steve Chabot

Congressman Scott DesJarlais, M.D.

Congressman Ron DeSantis

Congressman Jeff Duncan

Congressman Blake Farenthold

Congressman John Fleming, M.D.

Congressman Trent Franks

Congressman Louie Gohmert

Congressman Trey Gowdy

Congressman Tim Griffin

Congressman Richard Hudson

Congressman Bill Huizenga

Congressman Doug LaMalfa

Congressman Michael McCaul

Congressman Markwayne Mullin

Congressman Randy Neugebauer

Congressman Pete Olson

Congressman Steve Pearce

Congressman Scott Perry

Congressman Robert Pittenger

Congressman Todd Rotika

Congressman Steve Southerland

Congressman Steve Stockman

Congressman Marlin Stutzman

Congressman Tim Walberg

Congressman Randy Weber

Congressman Roger Williams

Congressman Joe Wilson

Congressman Ted Yoho FL-3