



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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April 17, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman,
Committee on Health Education, Labor,
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Minority Member,
Committee on Health Education, Labor,
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

via fax and electronic mail

**RE: NAACP STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF TOM PEREZ TO BE
THE NEXT SECRETARY OF LABOR**

Dear Chairman Harkin and Senator Alexander:

On behalf of the NAACP, our nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization, I strongly urge you to support the confirmation of Tom Perez to be the next U.S. Secretary of Labor. Throughout his career, Tom Perez has demonstrated that he has the talent, energy, knowledge, skills and experience to lead the U.S. Department of Labor in its important mission to protect and grow the middle class and to help all Americans obtain and retain decent jobs with adequate compensation.

Assistant Attorney General Perez is well known to and very well respected by the NAACP at the national level as well as within the state of Maryland. Throughout his career, first with the Department of Justice under Attorney General Janet Reno and as Chair of the inter-agency Worker Exploitation Task Force; and then as special counsel to Senator Kennedy (MA); followed by his work as the Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights, Mr. Perez impressed us as a hard-working, intelligent man of conscience. Mr. Perez also did an exemplary job for the State of Maryland as her Secretary of Labor. In this capacity, he collaborated with businesses and employees to address critical workforce development needs and continue to build a world-class workforce.

In his capacity as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, the NAACP has worked closely with Mr. Perez and we have been impressed by not only his passion for the protection of Americans' civil and human rights, but also with his ability to get real results. The Civil Rights Division has been extremely productive in the last few years. For example, the Division handled more new voting cases in 2012 than any prior year, including critical litigation to defend the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act.

Assistant Attorney General Perez also oversaw the successful implementation of the 2010 Shepard-Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act, landmark legislation that has transformed how the federal government investigates and prosecutes hate crimes.

In addition to these milestones, Mr. Perez has also worked steadfastly and diligently within the Civil Rights Division to implement institutional reforms to restore the integrity of the Division's hiring practices, the vigor of the Division's enforcement efforts, and the morale of the Division's employees. As confirmed by a recent study released by the Department of Justice's Inspector General, merit and experience -- not politics -- are once again the basis for Civil Rights Division hiring decisions.

Again, I urge you in the strongest terms possible to confirm Tom Perez as U.S. Secretary of Labor. The NAACP is excited about this nomination, as we have every confidence that Mr. Perez will do an outstanding job in protecting the rights of American workers which establishing internal reforms which will serve the Department of Labor, and the American people, well for decades in the future.

Thank you in advance for your attention to the NAACP position. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office at (202) 463-2940.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hilary O. Shelton', written in a cursive style.

Hilary O. Shelton
Director, NAACP Washington Bureau &
Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Policy

cc: Members, Senate Committee of Health, Education Labor and Pensions