



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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April 17, 2013

Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chair, Committee on Health Education,  
Labor and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Minority Member, Committee on  
Health Education, Labor and  
Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Senator Alexander:

**RE: JACL Support for the Confirmation of Tom Perez as Secretary of Labor**

On behalf of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's largest and oldest Asian American civil rights organization, I strongly urge you to support the confirmation of Tom Perez as the next U.S. Secretary of Labor. Tom Perez has demonstrated that he has the ability and experience to lead the U.S. Department of Labor in its mission to promote, protect, and grow the American middle-class, and to help all Americans obtain and retain decent jobs with a livable wage.

As Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Mr. Perez demonstrated his passion for the protection of civil and human rights, but also his success in moving these issues forward. His efforts were instrumental in defending the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act. He was also involved in the successful implementation of the 2010 Shepard-Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act, landmark legislation, which JACL supported, that has transformed how the federal government investigates and prosecutes hate crimes.

As a complement to his work in civil and human rights, Mr. Perez help transform hiring practices within the Civil Rights Division, and restored the integrity of the Division's hiring practices and the Department's enforcement program.

The Japanese American Citizens League strongly supports the confirmation of Tom Perez.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Ouchida  
Executive Director  
Japanese American Citizens League