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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 5, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As you prepare to fill the upcoming opening on the United States Supreme Court, I urge you to consider one of the finest judges my state has produced in 50 years of statehood – Alaska Supreme Court Chief Justice Dana Fabe.

As a result of a varied and distinguished 33-year legal career, Justice Fabe rises to the high standards you set for America's next Supreme Court justice. A brilliant attorney, she enjoys a reputation for excellence and integrity, yet as a former public defender understands how the law personally affects people's lives. As a Superior Court judge, Justice Fabe has tried both criminal and civil cases, appreciating first-hand how legal decisions can impact average citizens.

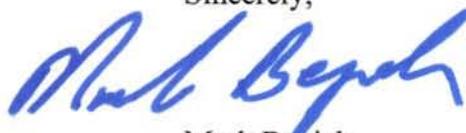
Named the first woman to Alaska's Supreme Court in 1996, Justice Fabe has presided over a diverse system responsible for administering justice across a state one-fifth the size of the continental U.S. As a Supreme Court justice, she has quietly embarked on unheralded efforts in Alaska, such as Law Day to familiarize everyday Alaskans with the law and has worked with women prisoners to better prepare them for release back into society.

Educated on the East Coast, Justice Fabe has been an Alaskan since 1976, providing her a rare western perspective she could bring to the nation's highest court. Justice Fabe has hosted many current Supreme Court justices on their visits to Alaska in recent years, so they would already know her when they meet in the hallowed halls of the Supreme Court.

Our nation's judges also have recognized Justice Fabe's superb legal and leadership skills by electing her president-elect of the National Association of Women Judges, a prestigious organization of state and federal judges committed to fairness and equality for vulnerable populations.

Mr. President, I urge you to consider a non-traditional appointment, but one I know you would be proud of forever in naming Alaskan Dana Fabe to the United States Supreme Court.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich
United States Senator