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January 7, 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman
The Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Leahy and Specter:

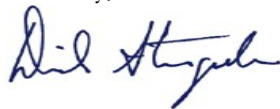
Thank you for this opportunity to express our support for Eric H. Holder, Jr. to become the next Attorney General of the United States. Members of the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) include the state, territorial and tribal chief executive officers of criminal justice agencies charged with managing federal, state, and tribal justice assistance resources as well as practitioners from all components of the criminal and juvenile justice systems. As an association and as the representatives of their individual jurisdictions, our members work closely with many of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) agencies and bureaus, principally the Office of Justice Programs (OJP).

Mr. Holder, a former judge and U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, has broad experience working within the criminal justice system. He understands the challenges we in state, tribal, and local governments face as we seek to improve the functioning and efficiency of the nation's justice system.

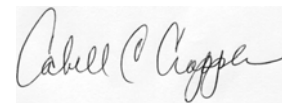
Throughout his career, Mr. Holder has shown a deep commitment to, and passion for, using the tools of government to bring positive change to communities nationwide. While United States Deputy Attorney General, Mr. Holder oversaw the programs our members manage. He understands the goals, as well as the complexities and barriers, of the many worthy federal programs that support crime prevention and suppression in states, tribal nations, and local communities. In this environment of tight budgets and a worsening economy, it is critical that the next attorney general use all the tools of the department to keep our streets safe, protect our kids, and respond to the needs of crime victims.

Mr. Holder's experience, record of public service, and prior tenure at the DOJ demonstrate that he has the judgment, experience, temperament, depth of knowledge, and commitment to best practices to be Attorney General of the United States. We strongly urge his speedy confirmation.

Sincerely,



David Steingraber
President



Cabell Cropper
Executive Director