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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3204

April 16, 2008

The Honorable Arlen Specter
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

Thank you for your letter of April 10, 2008, regarding several pending federal judicial nominations.

As you well know, I have tremendous respect for the Judiciary Committee and its jurisdiction over these matters. I believe Chairman Leahy and the Committee are processing these and all judicial nominations with due diligence. In fact, I understand that the efforts of the Committee have cut judicial vacancies in half, including cutting circuit court vacancies to fewer than half as many as were pending at the end of the Clinton Administration.

I do not believe taking the unprecedented step of filing a petition to discharge the nominations of Article III judges from the Judiciary Committee is warranted at this time. We can work in a bipartisan fashion to fill these vacancies, as evidenced by yesterday's agreement regarding several nominations to the Sixth Circuit Court reached by Chairman Leahy, the Administration, and Leadership of both parties.

I will continue to defer to the capable leadership of Chairman Leahy and his commitment to work with you on this critical area of responsibility for the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you again for seeking my views on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: Chairman Patrick Leahy