MARY L. LANDRIEU
LOUISIANA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–1804

July 12, 2005

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Via fax: 202[redacted]

Dear President Bush:

The nation is watching both the White House and the Capitol this month as we prepare to fill the first vacancy on the United States Supreme Court in more than a decade. This is truly an historic moment. Unfortunately, many Americans are fearful that this moment will be mired by the same partisan gridlock that has overshadowed recent lower court nominations.

There is a way to prevent partisan politics from derailing such a historic moment – working together.

Working together, I believe we can nominate and confirm a Justice who will make his or her decisions in accordance with the Constitution and not base them on political ideology. Working together, we can overcome partisan politics. Working together, we can unite our country.

The people of Louisiana value bipartisanship and have a tradition of electing leaders that work together. They sent us both to Washington in the hope that we would follow in that tradition by crossing party lines to help our country move forward. It is in this spirit that I worked with the other "Gang of 14" senators to broker a compromise on past nominations while maintaining the cherished traditions of the Senate; and it is in this same spirit that I write to you today.

Twenty-four years ago, President Ronald Reagan united our country when he nominated Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court. Because President Reagan reached out to senators from both parties, Justice O'Connor was confirmed by the Senate in a 99-0 vote. While she was a lifelong conservative, all senators could vote with the confidence that she would base her decisions on the law and not her political ideology. Justice O'Connor has been a voice of reason and moderation on the Court, embodying the most fundamental American values of freedom, equality and fairness. Most senators and most Americans would like your nominations to follow in this noble tradition.

Mr. President, we have a unique opportunity. You can unite this nation with your nominations, and I and my Senate colleagues stand ready to work with you to ensure that this historic moment is not wasted. We all want what is best for this country, and by working together we can achieve just that. I look forward to hearing from you soon and to making the most of this tremendous opportunity for our nation.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator