



January 15, 2025

Senator John Thune  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dick Durbin  
Ranking Member  
Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination for Attorney General

Dear Leaders Thune and Schumer, Chairman Grassley, and Ranking Member Durbin:

The National Fair Housing Alliance® (NFHA™) writes to respectfully request that the Senate thoroughly vet the nominee for Attorney General of the United States with respect to their commitment to civil rights. As the nation's top law enforcement agency, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is responsible for protecting the civil rights of all people in America and vigorously enforcing our nation's civil rights laws, including the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. The Attorney General holds one of the most critical civil rights posts in all of government.

By ensuring everyone can fairly access opportunity, we open the doors to individual advancement and enhance our collective prosperity. In particular, robust enforcement of our nation's fair housing and lending laws is critically important at this time, especially as DOJ's Combating Redlining Initiative has recently reached over \$100 million in settlements with a range of financial institutions including credit unions and non-depository institutions. Currently, the people of America are facing a fair and affordable housing crisis, with record-high housing costs, increased homelessness, and a record number of housing discrimination [complaints](#). By using the nation's civil rights laws to eliminate the distortions that bias inflicts upon the markets, the DOJ can ensure the markets operate fairly and efficiently to build a world where a person's zip code does not determine their outcome in life.

We urge the Senate to ensure that the next Attorney General of the United States shows a demonstrated commitment to:

- Preserving checks and balances. The nominee must understand that her role is to uphold the Constitution, not to demonstrate fealty to the President. The nominee must commit to acting with an independent legal judgment to uphold the nation's laws.

- Protecting established rights and freedoms. The nominee must commit to upholding the nation’s longstanding civil rights laws, including the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. This commitment includes preserving:
  - The disparate impact theory of discrimination (upheld by the Supreme Court in [Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project, Inc.](#));
  - The prohibition of discrimination on the basis of “sex” to include sexual orientation and gender identity (upheld by the Supreme Court in [Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia](#)); and
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives to ensure fair opportunities for all.
- Promoting fair and affordable housing for all households and communities. The nominee must commit to continuing the DOJ’s critical work to combat housing discrimination, redlining, and appraisal discrimination so that all households and communities can realize the American dream of homeownership as well as stable, affordable housing.
- Supporting robust civil rights protections for housing-related automated systems, including artificial intelligence (AI). The nominee must commit to using existing civil rights laws to defend individuals and communities against unfair automated systems, including AI, that threaten access to housing, lending, employment, and other consequential opportunities.

Thank you for considering our views. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email at [Lisa.Rice@nationalfairhousing.org](mailto:Lisa.Rice@nationalfairhousing.org) or NFHA’s Executive Vice President, Nikitra Bailey, at [NBailey@nationalfairhousing.org](mailto:NBailey@nationalfairhousing.org).

Sincerely,



Lisa Rice  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
National Fair Housing Alliance