

February 13, 2015

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

I am extremely disappointed with your decision to delay the Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation vote of U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch. Ms. Lynch is eminently qualified and highly regarded as an accomplished prosecutor with a strong commitment to protect the rights of citizens and seek justice for all.

Ms. Lynch showed grace under pressure during the long hours of vigorous questioning to address the various concerns and inquiries posed by members of your committee. Further, she has provided answers to hundreds of questions for the record, which resulted in a more than 200 page document. While she has been subjected to a heightened level of scrutiny, she has exhibited nothing but professionalism and responsiveness. Why the delay for someone who is obviously deserving of a timely vote?

The timing for Ms. Lynch's confirmation is particularly troublesome when one considers how long it took to confirm former attorneys general: Janet Reno 29 days, John Ashcroft 42 days, Michael Mukasey 53 days, and Alberto Gonzales 86 days. The confirmation of our current U.S. Attorney General, Eric Holder, 64 days. To date, Ms. Lynch's confirmation has taken 97 days and counting!

To make matters worse, Ash Carter's confirmation moved expeditiously and he is now Secretary of Defense. His hearing took place on February 4th, he was voted out of the committee on February 11th, and ultimately confirmed on the Senate Floor on February 12th.

Ms. Lynch's record speaks for itself. It is my firm belief her confirmation is being delayed not because of her qualifications or lack thereof; rather, she is being penalized by the Majority party for President Barack Obama's immigration policies and a general disdain for Attorney General Holder. It is a stain on the U.S. Senate and is nothing more than political gamesmanship. You should be ashamed. I urge you to take up her confirmation without delay.

Sincerely,

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Harry Reid