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March 1, 2016

Senator Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader of the United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

The Congressional Black Caucus is outraged with your announcement that Senate Republicans will not take up a replacement for Associate Justice Antonin Scalia on the United States Supreme Court. Your pronouncement was made on the very day of Justice Scalia's passing and is a blatant disregard of your constitutional duty as members of the Senate.

Your comments, coupled with the actions taken by your Republican colleagues on the Judiciary Committee stating they will not participate in hearings and will deny a vote on any nominee from President Barack Obama, are unacceptable. They clearly violate the intent and spirit of the Constitution. It is a violation of your duty to refuse consideration of a nominee to the Court. Every nominee is entitled to a hearing and vote by the full Senate.

It is imperative that the United States Supreme Court be composed of nine justices in deciding upcoming constitutional issues that are of utmost importance to the American people. President Obama should not be denied the opportunity for his nominee to be fairly considered to serve on the Supreme Court. We call on you and other members of the Republican Conference to refrain from politicizing the nomination process.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,



G. K. Butterfield
Chairman
The Congressional Black Caucus

cc: Senator Harry Reid

