

FIX THE SENATE NOW

A Project of the Democracy Initiative

December 1, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell,

We write to you today asking that you use as much time as is needed this Congress to give votes to the hundred-plus pending nominations. There is a record number of nominees pending on the Executive Calendar requiring Senate confirmation. Many of them have been waiting months in limbo – some for years – awaiting votes on their nominations.

We applaud the Senate in moving forward 501 nominees this last Congress and also appreciate the efforts to continue to move as many as possible as the 113th Congress comes to an end in just a few short weeks.

However, still languishing on the floor are more than 150 nominees to judgeships, ambassadorships, and important executive offices charged with protecting the health, safety, workers, environment, and our democracy itself.

Many offices responsible for implementing and enforcing our laws are vacant. This threatens to undermine the functioning of government. At the same time, our courts are understaffed, delaying justice for Americans across the country. Also, by delaying these votes, the President needs to start the process of re-nominating all these individuals again – a waste of time and resources for a new Congress and President.

We urge you and your colleagues to fulfill the duties of the Senate, stay in session and vote on as many nominees as possible before the end of the 113th Congress.

Longstanding vacancies in our government and courts will only make it more difficult to accomplish our goals and fulfill the needs of the American people. Thank you again for your leadership, and we look forward to continuing our work together in the future.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO
Alliance for Justice
American Family Voices
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees
Common Cause
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
Communications Workers of America
Daily Kos
Democracy 21
Earthjustice
Every Voice
Greenpeace
Jobs With Justice
League of Conservation Voters
National Action Network
NAACP
NAACP National Voter Fund
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza Action Fund
National Education Association
National LGBTQ Task Force
National Women's Law Center
Natural Resources Defense Council
People for the American Way
Public Campaign
Public Citizen
Rural Coalition
SEIU
Sierra Club
UAW
USAction
Voices for Progress