

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Chairman Arlen Specter
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Specter,

As you know, there have been several controversial decisions from the Supreme Court where Justices have cited foreign courts and sentiments in their opinions. The most recent example, in *Roper v. Simmons*, the majority opinion stated that foreign courts provided "respected and significant confirmation for the Court's determination." Furthermore, one Supreme Court jurist recently went so far as to say that "over time we will rely increasingly. . .on international and foreign courts in examining domestic issues."

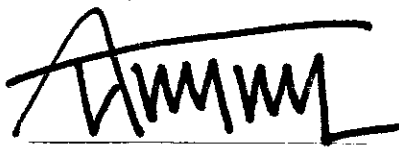
When any court in the United States begins to permit foreign sentiments to creep into rulings and opinions, it seriously undermines the sovereignty of our nation. These irresponsible allowances erode our distinct political identity and the philosophical traditions upon which United States law is founded.

Unfortunately we now seem to have jurists who have lost their way. The problem with citing foreign sentiments, foreign laws, and foreign courts is that it repudiates the process set up by our representative government. The Court essentially rejects the boundaries set up by our Constitution and refined by our representative government.

As former judges, we all took oaths to uphold the Constitution. Federal judges take the same oath. If a judge cannot cite the Constitution, United States law or United States judicial precedent in order to justify a ruling or opinion, it is highly inappropriate to selectively cite foreign constitutions, foreign laws, or foreign judicial precedents. By doing so, judges effectively disenfranchise the United States and begin to lose respect in the eyes of its people.

Therefore, we urge you to consider a nominee's allegiance to the Constitution and the sovereignty of the United States while performing your advice and consent role in the Presidential appointments process.

Sincerely,



Congressman Ted Poe



Congressman John Duncan



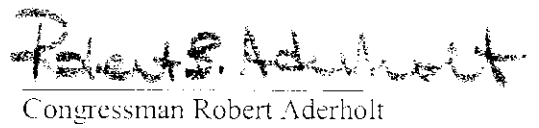
Congressman Louie Gohmert



Congressman John Carter



Congressman Ralph Hall



Congressman Robert Aderholt