

## Talking Points: Alito Confirmation, Council Chambers, 1/09/06

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- As others here today, I am deeply concerned about the proposed nomination of Judge Samuel Alito for the Supreme Court of the United States
- The more I've learned of Judge Alito's record, the more troubling the prospect of this nomination becomes.
- Being placed on our Country's highest court should be reserved for those who can separate their own personal beliefs on issues that affect our way of life.
- Activists judges are a threat to that way of life and the Senate Judiciary Committee must ask difficult questions to evaluate just how much of a objective adjudicator Judge Alito is.

- His view that “the Constitution does not protect a right to an abortion.” is a disturbing indication that if confirmed to the Supreme Court, Alito will vote to overturn *Roe v. Wade*
- The possibility of this should be of concern to us all.
- What is also alarming about the record of Judge Alito on privacy.
- Judge Alito believes that the nation’s top law enforcement officials deserve blanket protection when acting in name of national security.
- He has long record advocating in favor of increased presidential power at the expense of citizens – this raises serious questions about whether he would adequately protect & enforce Americans’ constitutional rights.

- He believes that officials who order warrantless wiretaps of Americans should be immune from legal accountability
- Concerns about Excessive Presidential Power and illegal spying by President Bush are growing among Senators and the American Public on all sides of the ideological spectrum.
- As a local elected official, I have voiced this by introducing a resolution to City Council in October of 2003 expressing our collective concerns about the USA Patriot Act.
- We need a judiciary that will protect us from the abuse of power and a women's right to choose.
- We must, as a community, express our deepest concerns and cautions on how dramatically this nomination could affect Portland, Oregon, and the United State of America. Thank you