



# Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D.C.

April 27, 2007

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On May 1, 1998, the President directed the Attorney General to coordinate interagency efforts to promote the use of alternative dispute resolution in the Executive Branch and to report to him periodically on that work. The Attorney General submitted an initial report on these efforts in 2000.

With this letter, I am transmitting an updated Report entitled, "Report for the President on the Use and Results of Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government." The Report is the product of a collaborative effort of Executive Branch agencies and, in particular, of the Federal Interagency Alternative Dispute Resolution Working Group Sections and Steering Committee. The Report outlines the significant growth that has occurred in federal use of alternative dispute resolution since 2000. It also describes the positive results of federal alternative dispute resolution, including cost savings, increased workforce productivity, and the promotion of the efficient delivery of services. Finally, the Report discusses opportunities to further develop the full potential of federal alternative dispute resolution.

The Report concludes that alternative dispute resolution is often a useful tool, but is not necessarily appropriate for all cases. Since the interests of the United States often are unique and may involve many interested parties, federal officials must resolve cases in ways that will not undermine important legal positions, jurisdictional defenses, or policy interests. However, federal agencies are finding that, in appropriate cases, alternative dispute resolution is a cost-effective and time-efficient option which can give the parties control over the outcome and involve stakeholders in decisions that affect them.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Gonzales".

Alberto R. Gonzales  
Attorney General