



February 2, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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Ramiro A. Cavazos
President and CEO

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) and our Board of Directors, we write you to affirm our full support for the immediate confirmation of Gov. Gina Raimondo to serve in the Biden-Harris Administration as Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce. We urge you to hold a fair and swift confirmation so that the new Administration and the strategic direction of the Department of Commerce can begin its important implementation.

The USHCC actively promotes the economic growth, development, and interests of more than 4.7 million Hispanic-owned businesses that, combined, contribute over \$800 billion to the American economy every year. We also serve as a platform for our nationwide network of over 250 local Hispanic chambers of commerce.

We believe immediate action must be taken to rectify the inequities in our American economy. Having a new Secretary of Commerce as soon as possible will allow us to address these important issues in a timely manner. Gov. Raimondo has years of experience in the highest level of public office, having served as the 75th Governor of Rhode Island since 2015. Her expertise in economics along with her leadership skills make her an outstanding candidate to guide the Department of Commerce's efforts to build back America's economic vitality. Her accomplishments at a local level have resonated with the new Administration's vision, that is why we urge her rapid confirmation so that we can begin the long and hard road towards a strategic economic recovery.

The Secretary of Commerce is a key member of the President's team and is a critical piece of our nation's economic development and commercial trade. During her time in office, Gov. Raimondo started her state's economy and made record investments in infrastructure, education, and job training. She quadrupled the number of public Pre-K classes, introduced computer science education in every school, and made Rhode Island the fourth state in the country to offer tuition-free community college to every high school graduate. Under her leadership, Rhode Island has been a national leader in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the most tests per capita in the nation and one of the fastest-recovering economies.

Gov. Raimondo is one of the most knowledgeable commerce and economic experts in our country. Her professional identity has earned bipartisan praise as she has laid the foundation to transition her State into a clean energy future, while creating thousands of jobs in the process. She also has deep support from our nation's Latino communities, business advocates, and trade associations. Furthermore, many other



leading organizations have endorsed her and called for her timely confirmation. There is no time to waste on this important Senate vote and confirmation.

The USHCC in collaboration with our network of business owners, corporate leaders, chambers of commerce, and community advocates stand ready to work closely with Gov. Raimondo as the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to ensure that our critical policy needs are considered and met for the economic revitalization, empowerment, and growth of our community. Thank you in advance for your consideration on this important matter. We look forward to your positive response and collaboration on this request and strategic political confirmation direction for the U.S. Senate.

Respectfully,

Ramiro A. Cavazos
President and CEO
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

CC: The White House
Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
The Congressional Hispanic Caucus