

November 8, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
NW Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Kamala Harris
Vice President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
NW Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris,

On behalf of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) and our national Hispanic-owned business community, we write to express our support for Jessica Cavazos to serve as Assistant Secretary for the Minority Business Development Agency at the U.S. Department of Commerce. We believe that this candidate's expertise and experience merits serious consideration during the vetting process. Jessica is a proven leader with an unmatched passion for service. Her work at a local level is a testament to her commitment to all unserved and underserved communities.

Irene currently serves as the Procurement Counsel for the House Small Business Committee majority staff since 2019. In this role, she advises Chairwoman Velázquez on small business contracting policies, provides oversight of SBA's contracting programs and works on legislation to ensure small business participation in federal procurement. Her knowledge and expertise on contracting are greatly complimented by her experience working on the private sector where she served as Contracts Administrator for the Northrop Grumman Corporation and managed domestic and international government contracts for the acquisition of ground-based radars. She holds a master's degree on Laws in Government Procurement Law from The George Washington University. Additionally, she earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Puerto Rico in 2010, graduating cum laude, and a Bachelor of Arts from the same institution in 2007, graduating magna cum laude.

The USHCC actively promotes the economic growth, development, and interests of more than five million Hispanic-owned businesses that aggregately 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.

The USHCC has confidence that success in the appointments process will evolve if our new government reflects who we are as a growing nation. Voices of diversity, especially Hispanics who account for 63.5 million of the U.S. population, will only help to effectuate the change needed to improve quality of life and ensure economic vitality for all Americans.

The USHCC firmly believes that having a strong Hispanic presence at every level of government will allow us to fully reflect our diversity in Hispanic communities, including gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, disability, and ethnicity. Our country will benefit from the wealth of talent and commitment that lies in the professional identities of many Hispanic public service professionals.

Our demographic accounts for approximately 20% of all Americans. However, in our modern history we have never been equitably represented in the Presidential Cabinet, our Court System, or other key political appointments. This Administration has the unique opportunity to change this and create a systemic paradigm shift of inclusion and equality in the highest ranks of our federal government.

We look forward to collaborating with you and the Office of Presidential Personnel to achieve this important goal. Furthermore, we are proud to provide necessary recommendations of qualified Hispanic professionals who are willing and ready to serve our country. If you have any questions about this candidate or the USHCC's efforts related to political appointments please do not hesitate to reach out to us at any time, we welcome the opportunity to have dialogue on this important process in American history.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ramiro Cavazos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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

CC: The Honorable Gina Raimondo
The Honorable Don Cravins