

National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

March 4, 2014

Latino Leaders Urge Senate Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee to Vote YES on confirmation of Maria Contreras-Sweet as SBA Administrator

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of the 37 preeminent national Latino organizations in the country, we write to urge you to vote YES during the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee's vote on the nomination of Maria Contreras-Sweet to lead the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Our membership, which represents millions of Hispanic Americans across our nation, unanimously supports Ms. Contreras-Sweet's nomination and we urge you to move expeditiously toward confirmation. As you will discover upon examination, she has significant accomplishments in the private sector. Her unique background in business and government administration will make her a great asset both to the agency and the small business community. Her proven leadership skills will help propel Latina-owned businesses, which represent the fastest growing segment of the women-owned business market, to even greater heights of success.

Her experience and understanding of the small business community emanates from her current position as Executive Chairwoman of ProAmérica Bank, a Los Angeles-based community bank focused on lending to small and medium-size enterprises. Prior to her founding of ProAmérica, she created an international management-consulting firm, the Contreras-Sweet Company, which boasted Disney, Coca-Cola and the Getty Museum, among others, as clients. The success of ProAmérica and her work with other business ventures, demonstrate Ms. Contreras-Sweet's expertise in addressing the unique needs of the business community.

In relation to her direct administrative competency, Ms. Contreras-Sweet also served in public office as California's Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency for five years. As Secretary, she oversaw a \$14 billion budget and a workforce of 42,000 employees. She was recognized for her outstanding service by the California State Legislature with the *Spirit of California* awards for her many contributions to the state. In our view, the totality of her professional career provides evidence that Ms. Contreras-Sweet has the requisite experience to succeed as Administrator of the SBA.

Moving forward on this nomination, it is our intent to score all votes associated with this nomination in our NHLA Congressional Scorecard on the 113th Congress. The NHLA Congressional Scorecard rates members of Congress on votes taken in the House and Senate that our membership deems important to the social, economic, and political advancement and quality of life of Hispanic Americans.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Hector E. Sanchez

Chair, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA)

Executive Director, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American G.I. Forum
ASPIRA Association
Avance Inc.
Casa de Esperanza
Cuban American National Council
Farmworker Justice
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
Hispanic Federation
Hispanic National Bar Association
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
Latino Justice PLDEF
League of United Latin American Citizens
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
National Association of Hispanic Publications
NALEO Educational Fund
National Association of Latino Independent Producers
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
National Council of La Raza
National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
National Hispana Leadership Institute
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Hispanic Environmental Council
National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Institute for Latino Policy
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Puerto Rican Coalition
SER Jobs for Progress – National
Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
U.S.- Mexico Foundation