

December 10, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Office of the Senate Majority Leader  
Capitol Building, S-221  
Washington, DC 20510-7020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Office of the Senate Minority Leader  
Capitol Building, S-230  
Washington, DC 20510-7010

**RE: NHLA urges confirmation vote on Ms. Lourdes Castro Ramirez to be Assistant Secretary of Public Housing and Indian Affairs, at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).**

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of 39 of the nation's preeminent Latino organizations, we write urging you to immediately schedule a floor vote to confirm Lourdes Castro Ramirez to become Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

On November 20, 2014, by unanimous vote, the Senate Banking Committee voted to approve Ms. Castro Ramirez' nomination for full consideration by the Senate. Based on the Committee's recommendation to move her nomination forward, and the national support her candidacy has garnered, we are extremely concerned this nominee has not received a full Senate floor vote.

The confirmation of Ms. Castro Ramirez is a top priority in the work we do in our federal Latino Appointments program. As such, it is our intent to score all votes associated with this nomination in our next NHLA Congressional Scorecard. The NHLA Congressional Scorecard records how Members of Congress voted in the House and Senate on issues that our membership deems important to the social, economic, and political advancement and quality of life of Latinos in the United States.

Born in Jalisco, Mexico, Ms. Castro Ramirez embodies the American dream. Her immigrant experience is one that has propelled her desire to excel and shaped her interest in public policies to better her community. Her academic achievements are highly regarded as is her professional career. As President and CEO of San Antonio's Housing Authority (SAHA), in the seventh largest city in America--Ms. Castro Ramirez has overseen a workforce of nearly 600 employees providing affordable housing to 25,000 households.

Under her leadership, SAHA improved its performance in several operational areas, including designation of the agency's Housing Choice Voucher program as a "high performer" by HUD and construction of 1,007 additional housing units at five new, mixed-income communities.

Previous to her leadership at the San Antonio Housing Authority, Ms. Castro Ramirez served as director of the Section 8 department for the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA). She was also a community development planner for Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation in Los Angeles, California before launching her public service career and serves as a Board Member for the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Centro San Antonio, and is a Co-Founder of Women in Housing Leadership.

She is a proven leader with deep expertise in affordable housing and community economic development. In addition, she already has the management experience needed for an office of this size. Ms. Castro Ramirez will bring the vision and experience that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Public and Indian Housing so richly deserves.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. Should you have any questions, please contact Dr. Carmen Orozco-Acosta, NHLA Senior Program Coordinator, at [carmen@nationalhispanicleadership.org](mailto:carmen@nationalhispanicleadership.org) or [512-787-6508](tel:512-787-6508).

We look forward to working with you for a swift confirmation.

Sincerely,

Hector E. Sanchez  
Chair, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda  
Executive Director, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement