March 29, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Endorsement of Lillian “Lee” Llambelis for U.S. Department of Justice Director of Community Relations Service

Dear Mr. President,

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda submits this letter to endorse Lillian “Lee” Llambelis for the position of Director of the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS).

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) is a premier coalition of over 40 leading national Hispanic civil rights and public policy organizations. Collectively, NHLA leads the advocacy behind the pressing civil rights and policy issues impacting the 60 million Latinos living in the United States. NHLA strives to increase Latino visibility and leverages its efforts to build a stronger Latino influence in our country’s affairs.

Ms. Llambelis currently serves as the Deputy Commissioner for Community Partnerships and STEAM Initiatives at the NYC Department of Design and Construction. Previously, she was the Special Assistant District Attorney for Community Affairs at the New York County District Attorney’s Office, and Director of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs for the NYS Attorney General’s Office. She also served as Litigation Director for the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (LatinoJustice PRLDEF) where she engaged in litigation, advocacy and policy development on civil rights issues affecting Latinos in the country. Her background demonstrates excellence in a variety of settings including law enforcement, education, and community affairs.

As an experienced prosecutor, effective communicator, and advocate, Ms. Llambelis would be a valuable addition to the Department of Justice. She has demonstrable communication and leadership skills and has worked exceptionally well with diverse communities. Along with her direct experience in addressing discrimination and injustice, Ms. Llambelis will be an excellent candidate to head the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice.

Please have your staff contact the NHLA Chair and Civil Rights Committee Co-Chair Thomas Saenz, MALDEF, at tsaenz@maldef.org or Civil Rights Committee Co-Chair Juan Cartagena,
LatinoJustice PRLDEF, at jcartagena@latinojustice.org, if you have any questions about NHLA’s position regarding this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Saenz
Chair, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda
NHLA Civil Rights Committee Co-Chair
President & General Counsel
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

Juan Cartagena
NHLA Civil Rights Committee Co-Chair
President & General Counsel
LatinoJustice PRLDEF