

February 11, 2014

The Honorable Mary Landrieu
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James E. Risch
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Landrieu and Ranking Member Risch,

We are writing you today in regard to President Obama's recent nomination of Maria Contreras-Sweet to lead the Small Business Administration (SBA). We proudly support Ms. Contreras-Sweet's candidacy, and hope that you will move her nomination expeditiously. We are confident that her unique background in business and government administration will make her a great asset both to the agency and the small business community.

Ms. Contreras-Sweet has significant accomplishments in the private sector. She is currently the Executive Chairwoman of ProAmérica Bank, a Los Angeles-based community bank focused on lending to small and medium-size enterprises. Before she founded ProAmérica Bank, she opened an international management consulting firm called the Contreras-Sweet Company which soon landed Disney, Coca Cola, and the Getty Museum. She was also president and co-founder of Fortius Holdings, LLC. The success of ProAmérica Bank and her work with other business ventures, demonstrate Ms. Contreras-Sweet's expertise in addressing the unique needs of the business community.

Ms. Contreras-Sweet has 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 has been recognized for her outstanding service. In fact, the California State Legislature selected Ms. Contreras-Sweet for the *Spirit of California* award for her many contributions to the state. We believe that her effective management of this agency demonstrates her distinct administrative competency.

Ms. Contreras-Sweet has the experience to succeed as the Administrator of the SBA. In addition to her impressive résumé, she understands the distinct needs of small business community. As such, we believe that she is eminently qualified for this position.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce,



Small Business Majority,



Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship



International Franchise Association,



Minority Business Roundtable,



National Association for the Self-Employed,



National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce,



National Minority Supplier Development Council,



Native American Contractors Association,



United States Black Chambers, Inc.,



Women's Business Enterprise National Council,



CC: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid,
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell