



NHLA National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Alianza Americas
- American G.I. Forum
- ASPIRA Association
- AVANCE Inc.
- Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
- Farmworker Justice
- Green Latinos
- Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
- Hispanic Federation
- Hispanic National Bar Association
- Hispanics in Philanthropy
- Inter-University Program for Latino Research
- Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
- LatinoJustice PRLDEF
- League of United Latin American Citizens
- MANA, A National Latina Organization
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- Mi Familia Vota
- NALEO Education Fund
- National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
- National Association of Latino Arts and Culture
- National Association of Latino Independent Producers
- National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
- National Day Laborer Organizing Network
- National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
- National Hispanic Council on Aging
- National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
- National Hispanic Media Coalition
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
- National Latinx Psychological Association
- Presente.org
- SER Jobs for Progress National
- Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
- U.S.- Mexico Foundation
- UnidosUS
- United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
- United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
- Voto Latino

November 24, 2020

President-Elect Joseph Biden
Office of the President-elect
Washington, D.C.

Dear President-Elect Biden,

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) has voted to strongly recommend Arturo S. Rodriguez, President Emeritus of the United Farm Workers, for nomination as the next Secretary of Agriculture of the United States. The NHLA is composed of 41 of the leading national Hispanic civil rights and public policy organizations.

Mr. Rodriguez would provide bold, effective leadership of the Department of Agriculture on behalf of all the constituencies it serves. He would bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the position having led the United Farm Workers for 25 years, succeeding Cesar Chavez. Under his leadership, the United Farm Workers, the nation's largest labor union representing farmworkers, served as a vigorous voice for the nation's agricultural workers, the large majority of whom are Latino. Mr. Rodriguez demonstrated his ability to work effectively to reach common ground with agricultural and food businesses as well as legislators of both major political parties on key policy issues. Through collective bargaining and corporate social responsibility initiatives he reached agreements with major businesses for the benefit all stakeholders in our food and agriculture systems.

This nation is overdue for leadership at the Department of Agriculture that not only understands the complexities of the agricultural and food sector but is also representative of the U.S. agricultural workforce. Thirty of the thirty-one Secretaries of Agriculture have been White. There has never been a Latina or Latino Secretary of Agriculture, despite the fact the overwhelming majority of those who make up the agricultural industry workforce are Latino. There has never been a Secretary of Agriculture who has a background with agricultural workers.

Now is the time.

Arturo Rodriguez, President Emeritus of the United Farm Workers, is uniquely qualified to be our next Secretary of Agriculture.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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



Bruce Goldstein
Co-Chair, Economic Empowerment and Labor Committee, NHLA
President, Farmworker Justice

/s/Eric Rodriguez

Eric Rodriguez
Co-Chair, Economic Empowerment and Labor Committee, NHLA
Senior Vice President, Policy and Advocacy, UnidosUS