January 24, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

We write today as national partners of the Friends of the American Latino Museum, the only organization dedicated to the creation of a Smithsonian National American Latino Museum, to support the appointment of U.S. Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard to the Smithsonian Board of Regents. We were excited and proud to see the announcement!

As you may be aware, the need for a National American Latino Museum was made clear to the Smithsonian Institution and Congress when its 1994 report, titled *Willful Neglect*, included it as one of the ten recommendations for addressing the damaging absence of American Latinos across the Institution’s museums. More than twenty-four years later, the Smithsonian seems to have all but ignored those recommendations. Last September, UCLA’s Latino Policy and Politics Initiative found that the Smithsonian only really implemented two of the ten recommendations and has a significant way to go in regards to recruitment and promotion of Latino leadership and personnel.

That’s why this appointment to the Board of Regents is incredibly timely. We have reached a heartbreaking point in our national discourse where Latinos are stereotyped and dehumanized with an alarming tolerance. We need a national institution that will correct the narrative and finally commemorate and explain over 500 years of American Latino history to every American and the millions that come each year from around the world.

Representative Roybal-Allard is herself a member of a historically important family in American politics and public service. It is her legacy and that of her father, Edward Roybal (one of the CHC’s founding members), that inspires us to continue fighting for this museum. Her deep experience and high-ranking tenure in Congress make her an excellent fit for the open congressional seat to provide active oversight for the Smithsonian.
As a Regent, she will play a key role in helping confirm the next Smithsonian Secretary. There is a serious need for accountability and oversight to ensure the new leader of the Smithsonian will commit to changing course on its treatment of American Latino history and culture.

We are very pleased to support the Congressional Hispanic Caucus’ nomination of Rep. Lucille Roybal Allard, thank you for this important appointment.

Signed,

Friends of the American Latino Museum
Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents
CASA
Facts About Cuban Exiles (FACE)
GreenLatinos
Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE)
Hispanic Heritage Foundation
Hispanics in Philanthropy
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
MANA, A National Latina Organization
National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO)
National Association of Latino Independent Producers
National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
New America Alliance
SER-Jobs for Progress National, Inc.
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
Sonja Diaz and Dr. Matt Barreto, Co-Founders, UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative
UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center
UnidosUS
University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection
Voces Oral History Project at the University of Texas at Austin

cc: Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard