



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

April 13, 2007

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
U.S. House of Representatives
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman ^{Xavier} Becerra:

Thank you for introducing HR 512, the National Museum of the American Latino Community Commission Act of 2007, which would establish a federal commission to explore the viability of creating an important National Museum dedicated to the Latinos in United States.

Currently, the role of Latinos has been underrepresented in the museums of our nation's capitol, which purport to reflect the achievements of all Americans. The establishment of such a museum on the National Mall, administered by the Smithsonian Institution, would provide an important and vibrant forum for educating Americans on the accomplishments of the nation's largest minority. It would also provide resources to facilitate the research and study of Latino art, culture, history, and life as they relate to the collective development and prosperity of the United States.

It is my belief that strong and timely leadership on this legislation will duly acknowledge the accomplishments of Latinos in the United States and educate future generations on Latino contributions to our national identity. Therefore, I offer my full support for HR 512 and look forward to working with you in this historic effort.

Very truly yours,

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

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