



April 6, 2007

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
702 Senate Hart Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Salazar:

We write to offer our support of the National Museum of the American Latino Community Commission Act of 2007 (S 500), which will establish a federal commission to explore the viability of creating the "National Museum of the American Latino" in Washington, DC.

The lack of a Latino-focused institution located at the National Mall has long been of great concern to the Latino community. As you know, some of the most significant museums in our country sideline the National Mall between the United States Capitol and the Washington Monument. These museums purport to reflect the history, culture, and achievements of the people of the United States. Yet scarcely do any of the permanent exhibits in these museums represent the American Latino community's role in the history and culture of this country.

Even with the many challenges and opportunities facing the Latino community, the importance of proper representation of Latinos and their contributions in our nation's foremost cultural institution cannot be underestimated. For example, millions of schoolchildren and families as well as tourists from all over the world can visit Washington, DC, without ever encountering a single museum, monument, or collection that helps to educate them about this nation's largest minority group. Recent experience clearly demonstrates that the virtual invisibility of the history, contributions, and status of the Latino community to most of their fellow Americans is no longer tenable.

Immediate passage of S 500 is a critical first step to remedying this unfortunate situation and creating an institution devoted to the research and study of American Latino life, art, history, and culture. We appreciate your leadership and look forward to working with you on advancing this historic effort.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Park, Esq.  
Acting President