

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 14, 2006

The Honorable Richard Pombo  
Chairman, House Committee on  
Resources

The Honorable Vernon Ehlers  
Chairman, Committee on House  
Administration

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Chairman, House Committee on  
Appropriations

The Honorable Ralph Regula  
Chairman, House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS

The Honorable Charles Taylor  
Chairman, House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior and  
Environment

The Honorable Nick Rahall  
Ranking Member, House Committee on  
Resources

The Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald  
Ranking Member, Committee on House  
Administration

The Honorable David Obey  
Ranking Member, House Committee on  
Appropriations and Subcommittee on  
Labor-HHS

The Honorable Norman Dicks  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior and  
Environment

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we write to express our enthusiastic support of H.R. 2134, a bill to create a commission to study and plan for a potential museum in Washington, D.C. dedicated to exhibiting the arts, history, and culture of the Latino community of the United States. The authorization and funding of this commission fall under the jurisdiction of your respective committees. We respectfully request that you take the appropriate steps to ensure the bill's enactment and appropriate funding for the commission before the end of the 109th Congress.

The museums on and around the National Mall in our nation's capital are considered home to a collection of exhibits that does its best to represent the whole of the American experience. Visitors to these museums see exhibits on our nation's miraculous technological achievements, our military sacrifices and

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accomplishments, and the documents establishing the most sacred tenets of our democratic traditions.

In recent years, Congress and the American people have added to the mosaic by erecting the National Museum of the American Indian and commissioning a new National Museum of African American History and Culture. We celebrate these additions, as we believe they symbolize America's ongoing effort to embrace its diversity and tell its complete story.

Still, we know that among the permanent exhibits in the museums on and around the Mall, the story that is being told about who we are and who we are becoming as a nation remains incomplete. For the 40 million Americans who come from Hispanic or Latin American heritage, there are scarcely any portrayals of their history, artistic and scientific achievements, or culture.

H.R. 2134 would take the first, small step toward ensuring that the lessons taught by our capital city's premier institutions for the arts, sciences, and humanities include a more comprehensive representation of American Latino cultural contributions. The commission created by the bill would have the responsibility of examining the feasibility of a new museum and would be comprised of experts with background in art and museum administration, as well as individuals with experience in development of similar cultural institutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views and we urge you to take quick action on passing and funding this important legislation. We warmly welcome the opportunity to work with you.

Sincerely,



Grace Flores Napolitano  
Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Xavier Becerra  
Chair, CHC Task Force on  
Technology, Communications,  
and the Arts



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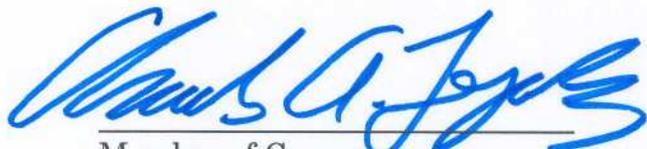


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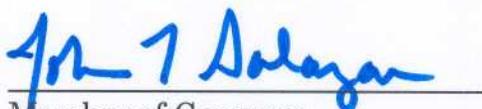
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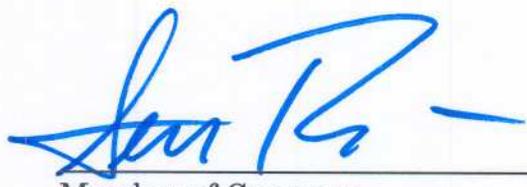
  
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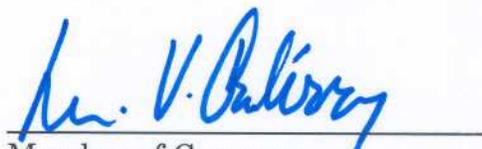
  
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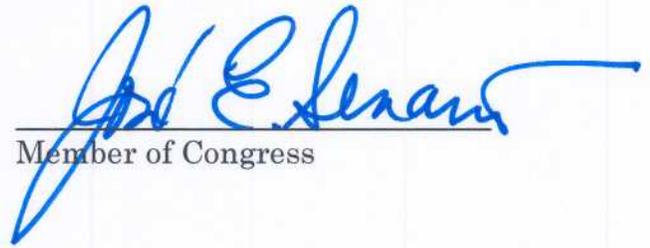
  
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cc: The Honorable Dennis Hastert  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Steve Pearce  
Chairman, House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks

The Honorable Donna Christensen  
Ranking Member, House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks