



January 14, 2009

Dear USHCC Member,

OFFICERS

David Lizarraga
Chair

Elizabeth Gallagher
Vice Chair

Augustine Martinez
President and CEO

Elliott Rivera
Chairman Emeritus

Rafael Sanchez
Board Member Emeritus and
Finance Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Region I

Eric Carson*
Waipahu, HI
Elizabeth Gallagher
Las Vegas, NV
David Lizarraga
Los Angeles, CA
Martha Montoya
Santa Ana, CA

Region II

Sally Fernandez
Tucson, AZ
Dr. Gilbert Garbiso*
Pueblo, CO
Gonzalo de la Melena
Phoenix, AZ
Jerry Natividad
Denver, CO

Region III

Jeannette Hernandez Prenger
Kansas City, MO
Maria Guadalupe Taxman
Saint Louis, MO
Nina G. Vaca*
Dallas, TX
Massey Villarreal
Houston, TX

Region IV

Juventino Cano*
Aurora, IL
David Gomez
Chicago, IL
Stephen P. Gutierrez
Canton, MI
Val Vargas
Andover, MN

Region V

Ed Diaz*
Wheatley Heights, NY
Alex Garcia
Newark, NJ
Alfred Placeres
New York, NY
Alfredo Rodriguez
Newark, NJ

Region VI

David Hernandez
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Pedro Vanga
San Juan, PR
Ignacio R. Veloz*
San Juan, PR

* Denotes Regional Chair

We are pleased to invite you to attend the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's 19th Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

There is no more important time to come to Washington than during the first 100 days of a new administration. Given the current economic crisis, both the planning and drafting of legislation are moving quickly. Our elected officials have an enormous obligation to stimulate and repair these deplorable economic conditions. Congressional leadership is already reacting to the policies of the new administration which will have a direct impact on the future of our businesses. The tone set in the first 100 days, will carry forward for the next four years. If we expect to be included and represented effectively, we must deepen relationships in Congress and maintain a high profile inside the beltway.

With so much at stake, the timing of the Legislative Conference is fortuitous. We'll gather in the nation's capitol at the halfway mark of this 100-day process, giving us an unparalleled opportunity to stay ahead of the curve in terms of Congressional policy, programs and priorities in this historic session. Our workshops are dynamic and practical for business owners; we'll hear from Washington insiders and get ample time to visit key legislators. The three day event will help us to set and advance the Hispanic business agenda, laying the groundwork for further analysis and advocacy.

Hosted by the USHCC, the 19th Annual Legislative Conference will be held on March 9-11, 2009 at the Marriott Metro Center, 775 12th Street NW.

Registration opens on the afternoon of March 9. March 10 will be devoted to nuts and bolts sessions and workshops that will provide us with the tools, resources, and information needed to establish, grow, and succeed in a competitive environment. The day kicks off with an insightful discussion on the state of the Hispanic economy to be followed by more detailed workshops. The day will include discussions of priority issues: building assets and financial security; immigration verification policies; the impact of health care coverage options; reducing business costs with the new "green" solutions. The day wraps up with a reception and awards dinner, providing additional time to network, share experiences and recognize successful business strategies. March 11 will begin with breakfast on the Hill and include a full day of appointments at Congressional offices, finishing with a VIP reception to be attended by several Members of Congress.

We hope both you and your membership will join us in Washington at a defining moment for the Hispanic business community. Your community's participation will strengthen our imprint on the nation's future and make sure our issues are near the top of the national business agenda.

Sincerely,

Augustine Martinez