



June 2, 2009

Mr. Mitch McConnell
 United States Senator, State of Kentucky
 361-A Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Justice Sotomayor: 47 Million Latinos and a Strong Republican Party

Dear Senators McCain and McConnell,

Both of you have demonstrated a commitment to social and economic justice that if embraced by the Republican Party would enable the GOP to be highly relevant to our nation's 47 million Latinos, including 2.5 million Latino-owned businesses. Unfortunately, many of your colleagues have decided not just to automatically block Judge Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court, but to attack her on the very grounds that makes the Latino community so proud of her.

Judge Sotomayor's comments that as a Latino woman she would have a potentially richer perspective on which to interpret judicial precedent, is not unique to Judge Sotomayor. As you are aware, Justice Clarence Thomas who was nominated by President George H.W. Bush, made a similar point before the U.S. Senate's Judiciary Committee, that due to his race and poverty of upbringing, he would be a better justice because he has "walked in the shoes of the people who would be affected by what the Court does."

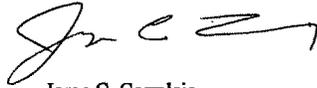
Another justice, appointed by George W. Bush, Samuel Alito, pointed out at his U.S. Senate confirmation hearing, the importance of his being an Italian-American. Justice Alito said "when I get cases about discrimination, I have to think about people in my own family who suffered discrimination because of their ethnic background, religion or gender, and I do take that into account."

Since no one questions Judge Sotomayor's intellect, academic or judicial qualifications, the Hispanic community is likely to believe that Republican opposition is related to her being Hispanic. Similar objections were made regarding the Court's first African-American, Thurgood Marshall. Not too far in the past, criticisms of five present Republican Supreme Court justices could have been made on the grounds that they were Catholic and in four cases because they regularly attended mass (all these justices were strongly supported by the Republican leadership, they are John G. Roberts, Samuel A. Alito, Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, and Anthony M. Kennedy).

We urge you to help make the Republican Party relevant to the Latino community and ensure that the Latino community will have the same high regard for the Republican Party as it often had for Presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush.

634 S. Spring Street, Suite 818, Los Angeles, CA. 90014
 213-347-0008(phone) 213-347-0009 (fax) www.LatinoBusinessChamber.com

Sincerely,



Jorge C. Corralejo
Chairman & CEO
Latino Business Chamber of Greater Los Angeles

CC: U.S. Senators: Lamar Alexander, Susan Collins, John Cornyn, Lindsay Graham, Judd Gregg, Orrin Hatch, Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Jon Kyl, Patrick Leahy, Richard G. Lugar, Jeff Sessions, & Olympia J. Snowe.

CC: David Axelrod, White House Senior Advisor

CC: Rahm Emanuel, White House Chief of Staff

ⁱ As Senator Jeff Sessions recently stated about Judge Sotomayor "She's smart. She's capable.... She's got the background you would look for...almost an ideal mix." Wall Street Journal, June 1, 2009.