



April 21, 2016

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Confirmation of Assistant Secretary of State Roberta S. Jacobson -  
U.S. Ambassador to Mexico

Dear Senator McConnell:

We are writing to you on behalf of Cien Amigos, a non-profit California corporation consisting of a diverse group of public and private sector leaders working to improve the economic, environmental, educational, cultural and political relationship between California and Mexico. President Obama nominated Assistant Secretary of State Roberta S. Jacobson to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Mexico and she received bipartisan support in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on a 12-7 vote. Her confirmation by the Senate has been stalled by Senator Marco Rubio (R-FLA) without merit. His opposition is based solely on Ms. Jacobson's recent efforts to normalize relations between the United States and Cuba, which a majority of Americans strongly support.

Assistant Secretary of State Jacobson is an extraordinary public servant who is exceptionally well qualified to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. She is fluent in Spanish and is highly respected in the United States and Mexico based on her distinguished record as Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs and point person on North American Free Trade Agreement issues. Moreover, she would be the first woman to serve as ambassador to Mexico which is the third largest trading partner of the United States. Indeed, Mexico has been California's main trading partner with exports of \$26.8 billion in 2015 which has created thousands of high paying jobs in our state.

We are writing to strongly urge you to utilize whatever legislative means are necessary to correct this injustice, including filing cloture to limit debate on Ms. Jacobson's nomination to bypass the obstructionist conduct of Senator Rubio. Senator Rubio's failed campaign for the presidency is confirmation that the American people seek a government in Washington, D.C. that works. For

**Cien Amigos**

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the foregoing reasons, we urge you to act quickly on Ms. Jacobson's confirmation which has bipartisan support, including Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) and our two distinguished Senators from California, Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. Thank you in advance for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Antonio De La O  
Chairman of the Board, *Cien Amigos*

Luis A. Cespedes, Esq.  
Founding Member, *Cien Amigos*

cc.

John Kerry, Secretary of State

Susan E. Rice, National Security Adviser to the President

Roberta S. Jacobson, Assistant Secretary of State

Senator Bob Corker, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Senator Ben Cardin, Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Senator Barbara Boxer, Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Senator Diane Feinstein, Member, Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration & The National Interest

Congresswoman Linda T. Sanchez, Chairwoman, Congressional Hispanic Caucus