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- United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
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- Voto Latino

December 17, 2020

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
Office of the U.S. President-elect
Sent via email

Dear President-elect Biden,

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) has voted to strongly recommend Jessica J. González, Co-CEO of Free Press, for nomination as a commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The NHLA is composed of over 40 of the nation's leading Latino civil rights and public policy organizations.

Ms. González is a sought-after expert on media, telecommunications and technology policy. She has testified as an expert witness a half dozen times before the U.S. Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation and U.S. House Energy & Commerce committees. She has closely tracked FCC policy for the past 14 years, and has worked on the details of the most pressing issues before the agency, including Net Neutrality, closing the digital divide, increasing competition in the media and telecommunications industries, and advancing broadcast diversity. She is a seasoned media and telecommunications attorney, and has represented clients before the FCC and in the courts of appeal, first as a staff attorney and teaching fellow at Georgetown Law's Institute for Public Representation, then as general counsel at National Hispanic Media Coalition, and finally as the Co-CEO of the prominent media advocacy organization, Free Press.

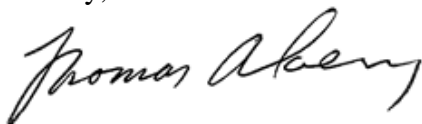
As a former FCC Lifeline program user herself, Ms. González has an intimate understanding of how federal policy impacts people's lives, and has dedicated her career to ensuring the poor and people of color are heard in the halls of Washington. During the Obama Administration, she worked with a broad coalition to make the case for expanding the Lifeline program, which at the time subsidized telephone access for low income people, to include broadband subsidies. Under the Trump administration, she was a consistent voice for the preservation and expansion of Lifeline to address the internet affordability gap and close the digital divide. She helped prevent grave Trump administration cuts to the program.

Ms. González has conducted her advocacy and legal work before the FCC with the utmost integrity. She has a long track record of putting the public interest first in policy making. Throughout her career she has consistently advocated for communications policies that advance racial equity, including building the case for policies to advance ownership diversity in the broadcast sector, challenging racism and sexism over the public airwaves and online, and working to bring broadband to Black, Brown and Indigenous communities, which are far less likely to be connected to adequate internet connections.

We know Ms. González from her five-year tenure on our Board of Directors. We can attest that she has the rectitude, steadiness and collegiality necessary to serve your administration with dignity and strength. We highly recommend her for your consideration.

Please have your staff contact the NHLA Chair, Thomas Saenz, MALDEF, at tjaenz@maldef.org, or Co-Chairs of the NHLA Media Committee, Brenda Castillo, National Hispanic Media Coalition, at bcastillo@nhmc.org, and Felix Sánchez, National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, at FSanchez@hispanicarts.org, if you have any questions about NHLA's position regarding this appointment. Please also let us know the contact information of the persons you designate as the official points of contact on this and related matters. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Saenz
Chair, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda
President & General Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
(MALDEF)



Brenda Castillo
Co-Chair, NHLA Media Committee
President & CEO, National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC)