



**LATIN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE NEVADA, INC.**
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Dear Senator Rosen and Senator Wicker,

The Latin Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1976 as a way to better connect small businesses with the tools and resources they need to thrive. In our first 10 years, we launched a job training program and helped establish a Foreign Trade Zone at Harry Reid International Airport. We aim to facilitate positive business, cultural, and educational relationships, and economic development in order to cultivate a community of successful Hispanic-owned businesses. Today, we are proud to serve over 1,500 members of Nevada's business community.

We want to thank you for leading the Omnibus Travel and Tourism Act of 2021 and offer our full support for this bill. Just this year we hosted the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce National Conference, bringing together Hispanic leaders to engage in policy discussions and attend informational sessions to help grow and promote the 4.7 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States. This conference alone had incredible impacts on our Las Vegas economy; an economy in which travel, and tourism are a significant cornerstone. We can't emphasize enough how important it is that we are able to host future conferences and promote economic innovation and development as we all continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Stanford Latino Entrepreneurship Initiative recently found that Latino businesses employ more than 3 million people in the United States and contribute roughly \$500 billion to the U.S. economy in annual sales. These businesses, especially in Nevada, not only support but also rely on the travel and tourism industry and have faced massive disruptions throughout the pandemic. The Omnibus Travel and Tourism Act of 2021 will help to revive the tourism industry and help our Latino-owned businesses recover and ultimately thrive. We are especially supportive of the development of a new assistant secretary position who will focus on creating strategies to strengthen our travel and tourism industry nationwide, and the directives for specific studies to be conducted in order to further learn about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic so that new policy recommendations can be made. We must ensure that American small business owners have the tools they need to be prepared for the next crisis and ensure that proactive steps are taken to protect the tourism industry.

The Latin Chamber is pleased to see that the Omnibus Travel and Tourism Act of 2021 has passed out of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. We encourage the swift passage of this legislation out of the Senate and full Congress.

If you have any questions or if I can provide any further assistance or information, please contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Guzman
President and CEO
Latin Chamber of Commerce Nevada