



November 12, 2014

Dear Members of the United States Senate:

The Hispanic Employee Council of Foreign Affairs Agencies (HECFAA) seeks your support for a final Senate vote to confirm Ambassador Arnold A. Chacon as the Department of State's Director General of the Foreign Service and Director of Human Resources (DGHR), pending since October 2013.

HECFAA is deeply concerned about the impact the delayed confirmation of Ambassador Chacon will have on American diplomacy during this critical time in global affairs. The Department of State has been without a Director General for over a year. A strong Director General is instrumental to the success of the Department of State as this position is responsible for the recruitment, training, and compensation of our 14,000 Foreign Service employees and 11,000 Civil Service employees, as well as 45,000 locally employed staff employed domestically and across 275 diplomatic missions overseas.

Ambassador Chacon would also be charged with leading diversity and inclusion initiatives urgently needed to address wide representational gaps in the State Department. One of those gaps is the consistently low number of Hispanics in the Department of State.

Ambassador Chacon brings a wealth of knowledge and over 30 years of experience in the Foreign Service. He would be the first Hispanic to serve in this position. Given his strong background, the Senate has a unique opportunity to act and enrich the diversity and capacity of the State Department's leadership.

We urge an immediate vote to confirm Ambassador Chacon so that he can assume his post and lead the Department of State's management and diplomatic efforts.

Sincerely,

Francisco Luis Palmieri
President,
Hispanic Employee Council of Foreign Affairs