



July 14, 2021

The Honorable Robert Menendez
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
423 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Risch
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
423 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Risch:

On June 15, 2021, President Biden announced his intent to nominate former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar for the position of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Mexican States.¹ The undersigned state attorneys general wish to express to the United States Senate and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations (“Committee”) our strong support for Secretary Salazar’s nomination and urge the Committee to act expeditiously to grant its approval.

Secretary Salazar’s record of public service is nothing short of extraordinary. In his many roles as a state and federal official, he has served as a leader and left a lasting legacy in both his home state of Colorado and the nation. Serving in roles ranging from executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources to Colorado attorney general to United States senator to secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Secretary Salazar has a unique and deep knowledge of the Western and Southwestern regions of the United States. This experience will serve him well as ambassador to Mexico.

Hailing from the San Luis Valley and Southern Colorado regions, Secretary Salazar has been a fixture in Colorado public life for five decades. As a fifth-generation rancher in this area, he has a sound understanding of the importance of agricultural and natural resources markets, and the importance of Mexico as one of our top trading partners. His experience, shaped as both a rancher and natural resources attorney, as well as his family’s rich Hispanic heritage, make him particularly suited for the great responsibilities of representing American interests before our neighbor, Mexico.

Of significant importance to us, Secretary Salazar served as a two-term attorney general for the State of Colorado. During his tenure, he left a lasting mark on the Colorado Department of Law, helping steer the state’s response to the 1999 Columbine High School

¹ Press Release, The White House, *President Biden Announces His Intent to Nominate Nine More Individuals to Serve as Ambassadors* (Jun. 15, 2021), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/15/president-biden-announces-his-intent-to-nominate-nine-more-individuals-to-serve-as-ambassadors/>.

tragedy, protecting water and public land resources, and standing up for Colorado consumers. He also worked with fellow Western attorneys general to develop an extradition program with Mexico. Moreover, because of his approach to problem solving and his integrity, he served with distinction and a spirit of collaboration with a Republican governor, treasurer, secretary of state, and state legislature as well as with fellow attorneys general from both political parties.

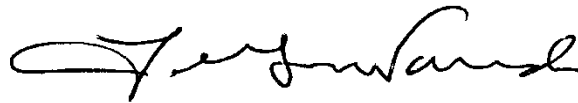
We are at a significant juncture in U.S.-Mexico relations. Mexico remains one of the largest trading partners of the United States.² Present conditions at the U.S.-Mexican border continue to draw concerns requiring skilled diplomacy. The next American ambassador to Mexico should be a seasoned statesman—one who holds a deep and lasting knowledge of our nations' interdependence, an understanding of the importance of trade between our markets, and a commitment to addressing border issues and immigration in a humane and intelligent manner. Ken Salazar is well equipped to meet each of these challenges.

We are proud to support Secretary Salazar's nomination to be the next ambassador to Mexico and urge the Committee and full U.S. Senate to immediately vote to confirm his appointment.

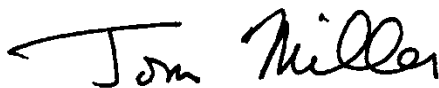
Sincerely,



Phil Weiser
Colorado Attorney General



Lawrence Wasden
Idaho Attorney General



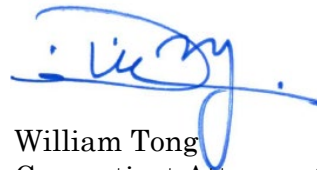
Tom Miller
Iowa Attorney General



Wayne Stenehjem
North Dakota Attorney General



Rob Bonta
California Attorney General

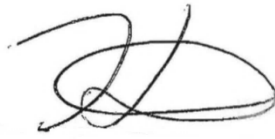


William Tong
Connecticut Attorney General

² Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, *Western Hemisphere-Mexico* (last visited Jun. 16, 2021), <https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/americas/mexico>.



Kathleen Jennings
Delaware Attorney General



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District of Columbia Attorney General



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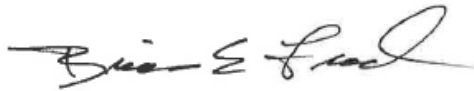
Clare E. Connors
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Maura Healey
Massachusetts Attorney General



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New York Attorney General



Josh Stein
North Carolina Attorney General



Ellen F. Rosenblum
Oregon Attorney General



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Pennsylvania Attorney General



Peter F. Neronha
Rhode Island Attorney General



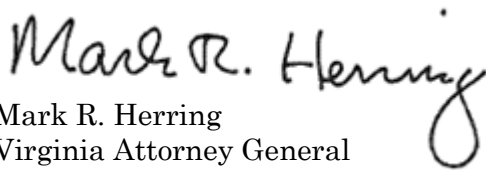
Jason R. Ravensborg
South Dakota Attorney General



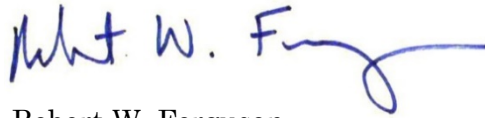
Sean Reyes
Utah Attorney General



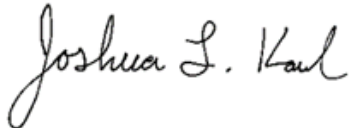
T.J. Donovan
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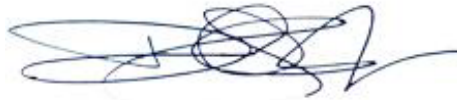
Mark R. Herring
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