



## For America's Economic and Energy Security: Pass Comprehensive Energy Legislation Now!

Dear Senators:

There is no doubt the current economic downturn is disproportionately affecting Hispanic communities across the country. Thousands of workers in the manufacturing and service industries have lost their jobs and are worried about their ability to meet the most basic financial obligations. In October, ***the unemployment rate among Hispanics reached 7.2% up from 6.4% in September.*** This number is much higher among Hispanics in the border states.

As we head into the winter season during a time of war, these worries multiply. The possibility of terrorist attacks on oil fields, pipeline and tankers in the Middle East is very real. This would force energy prices to skyrocket and immediately impact the most vulnerable families across the country.

***The Senate must act on comprehensive energy legislation before adjourning.*** Passing a comprehensive energy bill will increase our domestic supply and will be a major economic stimulus for our community. Not immediately addressing this issue is both irresponsible and dangerous to America as a nation and particularly to Hispanics as a community. ***America must increase the level of domestic production, so we can reduce our dependency on foreign oil.***

***We strongly support increased funding for conservation, research and development, smart consumption and an increase in domestic oil production.*** The House of Representatives already passed a comprehensive energy bill, supported by the President, which includes a collaborative effort between industry, federal labs and academia to create an industry-led R&D technology organization. ***Our organizations support this innovative new approach.***

On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Latino Coalition (TLC), the Latin American Management Association (LAMA), the Hispanic Business Roundtable (HBR) and the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, and on behalf of the more than 1.5 million U.S. Hispanic-owned businesses, their employees and families, we urge you to act responsibly and pass legislation immediately to address this issue before adjourning. Millions of needy Hispanic families need your support now. ***History will not treat inaction kindly, and neither will Hispanic voters next year.***

Best regards,

Robert Deposada President The Latino Coalition	Mario Rodriguez President Hispanic Business Roundtable	Stephen Denlinger President Latin American Management Ass'n	Al Zapanta Chairman US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
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