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**MANA Salutes Primera The Honorable Hilda Solis
on Appointment to Obama's Cabinet**

MANA, A National Latina Organization, with headquarters in Washington, DC, twenty five Chapters nationwide and six affiliates across the nation, congratulates MANA Las Primeras® Awardee The Honorable Hilda Solis on her appointment as Secretary of Labor for President-Elect Barack Obama's Cabinet.

A leader in politics, Congresswoman Solis broke ground when she became the first Latina to receive the John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award. She also achieved other firsts, including being the first Hispanic woman to serve in the California State Senate and the first Hispanic woman to serve on the influential House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Solis began her political career by working in the Carter White House Office of Hispanic Affairs after earning her bachelor's degree from California State Polytechnic University and her master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California. She was first elected to public office in 1985 when she became a member of the Rio Hondo Community College Board of Trustees. She continued her public service career by serving in the California State Assembly starting in 1992 and ending in 1994, when she became the first Latina to serve in the California State Senate.

While in the State Senate, Solis led the fight to raise the state minimum wage from \$4.25 an hour to \$5.75 an hour. She also concentrated on issues of importance to women and children, authoring a record 17 state laws with the goal of eradicating domestic violence. Solis's concentration on environmental justice issues was recognized in 2000 when she received the John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage award for her work on environmental justice issues, making her the first Latina ever to receive this prestigious award.

Congresswoman Solis, who was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 2000, is now in her fourth term as a U.S. Congresswoman. Solis serves on many powerful committees, including the House Committee on Energy and Commerce; she is the first Latina to serve on this committee. She also serves on the House Committee on Natural Resources and the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. Solis serves as a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group as well; she is the only elected U.S. official to serve on the former. While serving her constituents, Solis concentrates on the same issues that have been important to her throughout her career; she played an important role in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in 2006 and continues to focus on issues affecting women and children as well as on environmental justice issues. She was also named one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics" in the October 2008 edition of Hispanic Business magazine.

"In a historic year where the Latino vote was crucial to the electorate, we are so proud that Congresswoman Solis was chosen by President-Elect Obama to serve on his cabinet as the Secretary of Labor. Her vast experience adds a vital voice in Small Business and Latina issues to the incoming administration," said President and CEO, Alma Morales Riojas.

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About MANA: MANA, A National Latina Organization, is a nonprofit advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, DC. With chapters across the country, it is the oldest national Latina membership organization in the United States. MANA, whose mission is to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service and advocacy, envisions a national community of informed Latina activists working to improve the quality of life for all Hispanics. MANA also has the only national Latina mentoring program for girls 11-18, *HERMANITAS*®, which brings over 100 girls each year to a Washington, DC, Latina leadership institute that includes educational activities at the White House, on Capitol Hill, and at the Pentagon.