

May 9, 2023

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Chapters and individual members nationwide, we write to express our unequivocal support for Under Secretary of Rural Development, Xochitl Torres Small, to now serve as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Her service and commitment to rural and agricultural families, many of whom are Hispanic/Latino, has been unrivaled throughout her career, from the time she was a Capitol Hill staffer, through her time as a Congresswoman in her own right, to now as Under Secretary of Rural Development. Xochitl Torres Small stands as a shining example of a public official dedicated to the betterment of families in rural America, who are often left out of needed economic opportunities and infrastructure development.

Under Secretary Torres Small has demonstrated the unique ability to both understand the challenges facing rural communities, as well as the investments the federal government can make to meet those needs. Whether introducing legislation on broadband infrastructure for rural mapping, or accessing millions of dollars in broadband investment for communities in need; pandemic relief and food assistance; rural access to health care; work on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA); or PPP reform that included Farm Credit Bureau inclusion, her focus has always remained on the individuals and families in most need.

MANA is the oldest and largest Hispanic women's membership organization in the country, having advocated for women, girls, and families for almost 50 years. The advancement of Xochitl Torres Small's nomination and confirmation would represent an historical moment for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as she would be the first Latina/Hispanic woman to serve in the role of Deputy Secretary. As the granddaughter of farmworkers, the fulfillment of her personal commitment to serve families like her own cannot be understated.

We strongly urge the Committee to advance the nomination of Under Secretary Torres Small to continue her impactful and historical work at USDA.

Sincerely,



Amy L. Hinojosa  
President and CEO