

# Congressional Hispanic Caucus

United States Congress

Washington, DC 20515

CHAIRMAN

CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

20TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

October 13, 2011

The Honorable Thomas M. Hoenig  
President  
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City  
1 Memorial Drive  
Kansas City, MO 64198

Dear Mr. Hoenig:

One of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus's ("CHC") primary missions is to ensure that Hispanics have a seat at the table at the highest levels of decision-making, and we believe it is especially critical that diversity and inclusion is taken seriously and is robustly implemented in our banking sector. Unfortunately, Hispanics continue to be severely underrepresented at both financial regulators and in the private financial services industry when it comes to both hiring and accessing contracts.

Section 342 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L. 111-203, "Dodd-Frank") required each regional Federal Reserve Bank and federal regulatory agency to establish an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion ("OMWI"). The continued implementation and staffing of these new offices is of paramount importance, and we want to work with you to ensure that they are set up properly and operate effectively moving forward.

As such, it is critical that a strong commitment to diversity be practiced:

- When hiring within each Regional Federal Reserve Bank or regulatory agency;
- When hiring within each OMWI;
- And when contracting with private firms

Unfortunately, we continue to hear of access and communication problems for many qualified Hispanic candidates and Hispanic businesses seeking to do business with federal agencies. We believe that a heightened focus on diversity would help address many of these issues, and would help you achieve our shared goals of diversity. To that end, we respectfully ask that you share: 1) what steps you have taken to ensure that a wide range of diverse candidates are included both in the hiring at your OMWI and in your respective agencies as a whole; 2) what steps you have taken to ensure diversity in contracting; and 3) your long-term plans for diversity and inclusion. Furthermore, it has come to our attention that many of the OMWI Directors recently met with the Congressional Black Caucus ("CBC") to discuss the efforts made so far in establishing and staffing these offices. We request a similar meeting with all OMWI Directors in Washington, DC, to discuss these efforts and your progress thus far.

While we understand the enormous demands on your schedule, we believe that the importance and urgency of this matter calls for the meeting to take place as soon as possible. Patricia Tamez, CHC Executive Director, will be happy to work with your staff to arrange a meeting. She can be reached at (202) 225-2410 or via email at [patricia.tamez@mail.house.gov](mailto:patricia.tamez@mail.house.gov). Again, thank you for your past efforts. We look forward to meeting with you and appreciate in advance your prompt response.

Sincerely,



CHARLES A. GONZALEZ  
Chair, Congressional Hispanic Caucus



JOE BACA  
Chair, CHC Diversity Task Force



ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator

Cc: The Honorable Ben Bernanke  
The Honorable Eric S. Rosengren  
The Honorable William C. Dudley  
The Honorable Charles I. Plosser  
The Honorable Sandra Pianalto  
The Honorable Jeffrey M. Lacker  
The Honorable Dennis Lockhart  
The Honorable Charles L. Evans  
The Honorable James Bullard  
The Honorable Narayana Kocherlakota  
The Honorable Richard W. Fisher  
The Honorable John F. Moore  
The Honorable Raj Date  
The Honorable Debbie Matz  
The Honorable John Walsh  
The Honorable Mary L. Schapiro  
The Honorable Timothy F. Geithner  
The Honorable Martin J. Gruenberg  
The Honorable Edward DeMarco  
Ms. Diane Ashley  
Mr. Marques Benton  
Ms. Joan Buchanan  
Mr. Duane Carter  
Ms. Sheila Clark  
Ms. Tammy Cummings

Mr. Tyrone Gholson  
Ms. Mary Ann Hood  
Mr. James Price  
Ms. Susan Sutherland  
Ms. Valerie Van Meter  
Ms. Peggy Velimesis  
Ms. Donna Ward

