



Mission Lenders Working Group

February 26, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

The Mission Lenders Working Group, the only national organization representing 7(a) Community Advantage lenders -- including Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and Certified Development Companies (CDCs), offers our strong support for Ms. Isabel Casillas Guzman's confirmation as Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Given the SBA's crucial role supporting our nation's small businesses as they weather the economic effects of the pandemic, it is paramount that the United States Senate act swiftly to confirm a new Administrator who will champion the needs of struggling small businesses - particularly those who are underserved and underbanked.

Ms. Guzman has pledged to ensure that SBA programs reach small business owners who have been turned away by traditional financial institutions and are unable to access the capital they need to launch, grow, or meet their operating expenses amid crisis. Moreover, Ms. Guzman's strong track record supporting and growing small businesses as Director of California's Office of the Small Business Advocate, and background as a former SBA senior official, entrepreneur, and startup founder positions her to hit the ground running as the next SBA Administrator.

It is vital that the Senate vote to confirm Ms. Guzman without delay to ensure the seamless delivery of urgently needed relief funds to businesses impacted by the pandemic. In addition, Ms. Guzman's leadership will guide essential planning for future phases of economic recovery, when business operations may need to adapt permanently given workforce changes and public health concerns.

The Mission Lenders Working Group stands ready to work with Ms. Guzman as the next SBA Administrator and urges the Senate to vote to confirm her as soon as possible. America's underserved small businesses cannot afford to wait.

Sincerely,

The Mission Lenders Working Group

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