

April 2, 2013

Senator Tom Harkin
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative George Miller
United States House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Harkin and Representative Miller:

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) commends you for introducing the “Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013” (S. 460/H.R. 1010). NCLR supports this bill because it would accomplish three goals that are critical to the economic security of millions of Latino workers and their families:

- **Raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10** by 2015, increasing it by 95 cents each year to achieve this
- **Adjust the minimum wage each year to keep pace with the rising cost of living** starting in 2016, a policy reform known as “indexing,” which ten states are already using to prevent the minimum wage from falling in value each year
- **Raise the minimum wage for tipped workers**, which has been frozen at a meager \$2.13 per hour for more than twenty years, to 70% of the minimum wage

Now more than ever, working adults depend on minimum-wage jobs to sustain themselves and their families. Of the workers who would see their wages rise as a result of the “Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013,” 25% are Latino, 55% work full time, 28% are parents, and 36% are married.

The entire economy benefits when more workers can afford basic necessities like food, clothing, and rent. In fact, the resulting increase in consumer spending from this bill would create approximately 140,000 jobs, a critical boost to the sluggish economic recovery.

Raising the tipped minimum wage is especially important to Latinos, who are overrepresented in jobs that pay workers a share of their wages in tips, such as servers and bussers. Tipped workers are more than twice as likely to live in poverty as other workers.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation. If you have any questions, please direct them to me or to Alicia Criado at acriado@nclr.org or (202) 785-1670.

Sincerely,



Eric Rodriguez
Vice President