Zoe Lofgren
California Democratic Congressional Delegation
Chair

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffires
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Co-Chair, House Democratic Steering & Policy Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Katherine Clark
Democratic Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nanette Barragan
Co-Chair, House Democratic Steering & Policy Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pete Aguilar
Chair, House Democratic Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robin Kelly
Co-Chair, House Democratic Steering & Policy Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Steering and Policy Committee Members:

As the Steering and Policy Committee begins organizing for the 120th Congress, I respectfully request, on behalf of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, that you lend your support to Congressman Gil Cisneros during his race for Chair of the House Small Business Committee. Rep. Cisneros has the full support of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation.

The 2026 midterm elections demonstrated that our country is looking for thoughtful leadership to lower costs and deliver real accountability. It was a rebuke of the Trump Administration focusing more on chaos, cruelty, and corruption than Americans and their small businesses. We saw a President who has attempted to zero out nearly all of the SBA's budget for entrepreneurial development programs, which bring resources to local communities.[1] The Trump Administration abused tariffs and increased costs for Main Street and ignored them when they spoke out. Small business bankruptcies are up.[2] And the SBA proposed a rule to increase small business size standards that would allow billion-dollar companies to be reclassified as small. We need a steady hand on the Small Business Committee that has been tracking these challenges and can act on them and hold the Administration accountable.

[1] https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IN12694
[2] https://www.uscourts.gov/data-news/judiciary-news/2026/07/28/bankruptcies-rise-122-percent

Rep. Cisneros is well-positioned to continue his work combating the President's harmful policies and to build on the work started by the current Ranking Member. As the only candidate currently on the Committee, Rep. Cisneros is ready to work collaboratively across the Democratic Caucus to deliver access to capital, growth opportunities, and affordability to small businesses across the nation who have entrusted us with the majority. As a member of the Committee, he has experience conducting focused, vigorous oversight of the SBA.

California is home to over 4.3 million small businesses, the most in any state – in fact, 99.8% of all businesses in California are small businesses.[3] Yet, the Trump Administration has targeted California and regions led by Democrats numerous times and will continue to do so. In June 2025 Congressman Cisneros led the effort against the SBA's blatant politicization of resources meant to support small businesses after the SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler announced that the SBA would relocate its regional office out of Los Angeles. This is an ongoing issue as SBA noticed just last month it would be relocating out of four major metropolitan areas led by Democrats. We need a Chair like Congressman Cisneros who is aware of the ongoing issues and has the necessary experience to hold the Trump Administration accountable for its needless attacks on our small businesses and our economy.

If elected to lead the Small Business Committee, Rep. Cisneros would be one of only two Hispanic Members to lead a Committee in the House. Representation of Hispanic and Latino communities in leadership positions within our Caucus is more important than ever, especially given the crucial role of Hispanic and Latino businesses in driving the American economy. The U.S. Latino economy has reached $4.4 trillion and accounted for 28.2% of our nation's economic growth in recent years.[4] In California, the Latino community is essential to the economy and labor market – Latinos make up about 40% of the population, pay roughly $83 billion in state taxes, and Latino-owned businesses create an estimated 650,000 jobs in the state as of 2024.[5] Planning for the future requires special attention to the minority and immigrant communities and the entrepreneurs and innovators helping drive growth. Yet, the President is targeting these businesses and making it harder for them to survive, much less thrive. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is targeting immigrant communities – ripping apart families, threatening our workforce, and forcing our small businesses to lose customers. Vice President Vance has already hinted at a crackdown on small businesses, saying "...we should change enforcement — by focusing more on businesses..."[6] The cost of living is already sky-high, and thanks to ICE's recklessness our local economies are the ones that suffer. We need a Chair that will be at the forefront of championing relief from this ICE tax.

Rep. Cisneros listens to small businesses and brings his experience managing organizations of various sizes to the role of Chair. He was a small business owner, where he had to balance a budget to make payroll and work through the same operational realities our entrepreneurs face daily. He served as president of a non-profit foundation and served on the board of directors for two non-profits focused on supporting small business growth and entrepreneurs. Rep. Cisneros also served in the Navy and later in the Department of Defense, as the Under Secretary of Personnel and

[3] https://advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/California_2025-State-Profile.pdf
[4] https://latinodonorcollaborative.org/reports/2026-economic-impact-part-one/
[5] https://unidosus.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/unidosus_home_economicstatusoflatinosincalifornia.pdf
[6] https://x.com/JDVance/status/2118004988433641835

Readiness under President Biden. He managed a budget of over 60 billion dollars and an organization of over 20,000 personnel.

His experience as a small business owner, collaborative approach, and commitment to advancing Democratic priorities would make him an effective leader of the Small Business Committee. He will continue to champion minority-, women-, veteran-, tribal-owned, and all small businesses. The California Democratic Congressional Delegation strongly believes that Rep. Cisneros would bring meaningful expertise, leadership, and representation as Chair of the Committee.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



_____

Zoe Lofgren

Member of Congress

Chair, California Democratic Congressional Delegation