

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services and  
Education

Democratic Senior Whip

Congressional Hispanic Caucus  
Healthcare Task Force Chair



**LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**  
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February 22, 2016

Secretary Julián Castro  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 Seventh Street SW  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Castro:

I am pleased to express my support for the South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z) application to designate a region of South Los Angeles as a Promise Zone.

SLATE-Z will provide communities in South Los Angeles with the opportunity to reduce the plight of poverty by connecting residents and businesses to educational and economic development as well as civic engagement opportunities through improved mobility systems. The region selected for the Promise Zone application will affect almost 200,000 residents where the poverty rate is at a critical 45.6%. The community of South Los Angeles has and continues to experience a wide range of challenges and has been unable to gather enough resources to overcome them for numerous years.

As one of the Congressional Representatives for South Los Angeles, I understand the impact this proposal and partnership will create for South Los Angeles. The partnership created for the SLATE-Z has the experience and expertise necessary to implement a comprehensive strategy, as I hope you experienced during your meetings with the dynamic community of South Los Angeles on August 31, 2015. Within its mission, SLATE-Z will bring residents into living wage jobs; improve economic activity through the use and support of local businesses; educate and prepare students on college and career pathways; use prevention, intervention, and re-entry mechanisms to reduce violent crime; and enhance transit infrastructure. Over the course of the Promise Zone application process, there has been increased collaboration among the organizations. Such a designation will provide access to resources that will help transform South Los Angeles into the thriving community that we all know is possible.

I respectfully request that you give full consideration to the SLATE-Z application to ensure greater opportunities for South Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucille Roybal-Allard".

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD  
Member of Congress