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CAUCUS CIVIL RIGHTS TASK FORCE

July 29, 2005

Mr. Allen Spencer  
220 Altgelt Avenue  
San Antonio, Texas 78201-1803

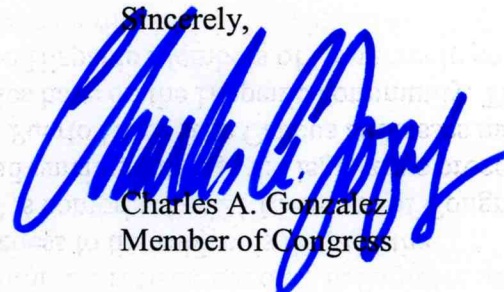
Dear Mr. Spencer:

Thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding your thoughts on discrimination in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. I am interested in hearing your views on this very important issue.

Like you, I abhor racism. I support all efforts to eliminate racism, not only in America but around the world. One avenue I use to bring awareness to the subject is through the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC). The CHC is comprised of 21 Members of Congress of Hispanic descent, and is dedicated to voicing and advancing, through the legislative process, issues affecting Hispanics in the United States and Puerto Rico. The Caucus addresses national and international issues and the impact these policies have on the Hispanic community. The function of the Caucus is to serve as a forum for the Hispanic Members of Congress to coalesce around a collective legislative agenda. In addition to covering legislative action, the CHC also monitors Executive and Judicial issues. CHC legislative priorities cover all areas that have a direct impact on the Hispanic community, including education, higher education, and workforce improvement. In order to best address these diverse issues, members work in smaller task forces that draw on their expertise and develop priority legislation within each area. I currently serve as the Chair of the Civil Rights Task Force where I am able to closely monitor policies, in particular those related to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Let me assure you that I will keep your concerns in mind as Congress examines these issues further, including those concerning the Forest Service.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me again regarding this or any other issue of importance to you.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

CAG:wb