

**For Immediate Release:**

July 15, 2021

**Contact:** Matt Baca -- (505) 270-7148

**Attorney General Balderas joins bipartisan coalition of attorneys general supporting nomination of Ken Salazar to be U.S. ambassador to Mexico**

*Santa Fe, NM*—Attorney General Balderas today joined a bipartisan coalition of 30 attorneys general to urge the U.S. Senate to approve former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's nomination as U.S. ambassador to Mexico. In the letter to Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez, D-N.J., and Ranking Member James Risch, R-Idaho, the attorneys general say our country is at a significant juncture in U.S.-Mexico relations, and that Salazar is a seasoned statesman well equipped to meet the challenges of serving as the ambassador to Mexico.

“As a former state attorney general, Secretary Salazar knows just how important a strong relationship is with our neighbors in Mexico, from strengthening law enforcement partnerships and enforcing the rule of law, to ensuring our economic security,” said Attorney General Balderas. “Secretary Salazar has demonstrated throughout his decorated career that he is truly a public servant, and I encourage the Senate to confirm his nomination.”

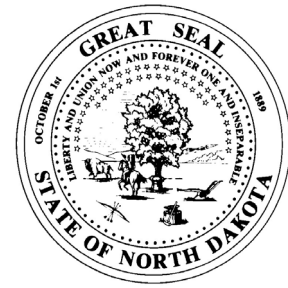
Salazar served previously in roles ranging from executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources to Colorado attorney general to U.S. senator to secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, giving him a unique and deep knowledge of the Western and Southwestern regions of the United States.

The attorneys general also explain in the letter that Salazar holds a deep and lasting knowledge of our nations' interdependence, an understanding of the importance of trade between our markets, and a commitment to addressing border issues and immigration in a humane and intelligent manner.

Attorney General Balderas joined the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

A copy of the letter of support is attached.

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July 14, 2021

The Honorable Robert Menendez  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
423 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Risch  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
423 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Risch:

On June 15, 2021, President Biden announced his intent to nominate former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar for the position of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Mexican States.<sup>1</sup> The undersigned state attorneys general wish to express to the United States Senate and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations (“Committee”) our strong support for Secretary Salazar’s nomination and urge the Committee to act expeditiously to grant its approval.

Secretary Salazar’s record of public service is nothing short of extraordinary. In his many roles as a state and federal official, he has served as a leader and left a lasting legacy in both his home state of Colorado and the nation. Serving in roles ranging from executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources to Colorado attorney general to United States senator to secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Secretary Salazar has a unique and deep knowledge of the Western and Southwestern regions of the United States. This experience will serve him well as ambassador to Mexico.

Hailing from the San Luis Valley and Southern Colorado regions, Secretary Salazar has been a fixture in Colorado public life for five decades. As a fifth-generation rancher in this area, he has a sound understanding of the importance of agricultural and natural resources markets, and the importance of Mexico as one of our top trading partners. His experience, shaped as both a rancher and natural resources attorney, as well as his family’s rich Hispanic heritage, make him particularly suited for the great responsibilities of representing American interests before our neighbor, Mexico.

Of significant importance to us, Secretary Salazar served as a two-term attorney general for the State of Colorado. During his tenure, he left a lasting mark on the Colorado Department of Law, helping steer the state’s response to the 1999 Columbine High School

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<sup>1</sup> Press Release, The White House, *President Biden Announces His Intent to Nominate Nine More Individuals to Serve as Ambassadors* (Jun. 15, 2021), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/15/president-biden-announces-his-intent-to-nominate-nine-more-individuals-to-serve-as-ambassadors/>.

tragedy, protecting water and public land resources, and standing up for Colorado consumers. He also worked with fellow Western attorneys general to develop an extradition program with Mexico. Moreover, because of his approach to problem solving and his integrity, he served with distinction and a spirit of collaboration with a Republican governor, treasurer, secretary of state, and state legislature as well as with fellow attorneys general from both political parties.

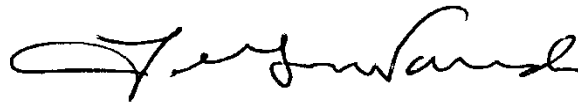
We are at a significant juncture in U.S.-Mexico relations. Mexico remains one of the largest trading partners of the United States.<sup>2</sup> Present conditions at the U.S.-Mexican border continue to draw concerns requiring skilled diplomacy. The next American ambassador to Mexico should be a seasoned statesman—one who holds a deep and lasting knowledge of our nations' interdependence, an understanding of the importance of trade between our markets, and a commitment to addressing border issues and immigration in a humane and intelligent manner. Ken Salazar is well equipped to meet each of these challenges.

We are proud to support Secretary Salazar's nomination to be the next ambassador to Mexico and urge the Committee and full U.S. Senate to immediately vote to confirm his appointment.

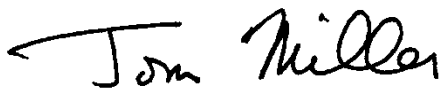
Sincerely,



Phil Weiser  
Colorado Attorney General



Lawrence Wasden  
Idaho Attorney General



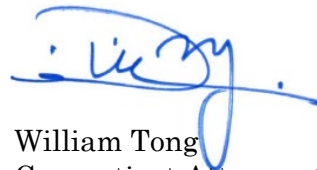
Tom Miller  
Iowa Attorney General



Wayne Stenehjem  
North Dakota Attorney General



Rob Bonta  
California Attorney General



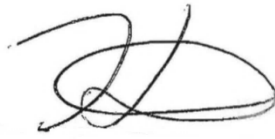
William Tong  
Connecticut Attorney General

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<sup>2</sup> Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, *Western Hemisphere-Mexico* (last visited Jun. 16, 2021), <https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/americas/mexico>.



Kathleen Jennings  
Delaware Attorney General



Karl A. Racine  
District of Columbia Attorney General



Leevin Taitano Camacho  
Guam Attorney General



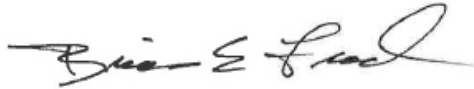
Clare E. Connors  
Hawaii Attorney General



Kwame Raoul  
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Aaron M. Frey  
Maine Attorney General



Brian Frosh  
Maryland Attorney General



Maura Healey  
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New Mexico Attorney General



Letitia James  
New York Attorney General



Josh Stein  
North Carolina Attorney General



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Oregon Attorney General



Josh Shapiro  
Pennsylvania Attorney General



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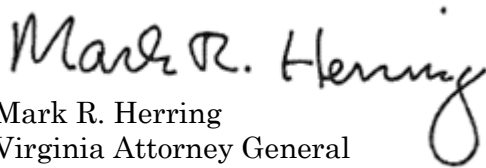
Jason R. Ravensborg  
South Dakota Attorney General



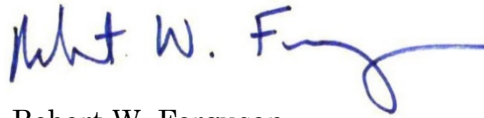
Sean Reyes  
Utah Attorney General



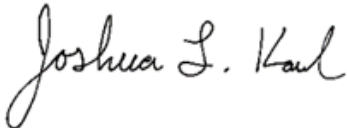
T.J. Donovan  
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Robert W. Ferguson  
Washington Attorney General



Joshua L. Kaul  
Wisconsin Attorney General



Denise N. George  
United States Virgin Islands Attorney General