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[www.tucsonhispanicchamber.org](http://www.tucsonhispanicchamber.org)

August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

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Tara Torres Hungate  
*Arizona Lotus Corp.*

**Vice-Chair:**

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*Metropolitan Tucson  
Convention & Visitors Bureau*

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*Bank of the West*

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Carlos Ruiz  
*HT Metals*

**President/CEO**

Lea Marquez Peterson, MBA

Dear Elected Official,

The intent of this letter is to provide information about the process by which public policy decisions are made within the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (THCC). The Tucson Hispanic Chamber continues to grow its advocacy voice in our community and our state. The THCC is representative of the over 60,000 Hispanic owned businesses in the State of Arizona and our 750 diverse member businesses that are Hispanic-owned and managed and that serve the Hispanic community within the region. Communication between our elected leaders and the THCC and other member organizations that represent the business community plays a vital role in improving our local economy.

The THCC has experienced tremendous growth over the past two years and has doubled its membership size and its programs and services offered to the business community. We deliver monthly luncheons in English, quarterly events in Spanish as well as business mixers and educational workshops that serve our membership and the business community in Southern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. Many of our 750 members have multiple business locations throughout the region and international interests.

Our Chamber has partnered with the Metropolitan Tucson Convention and Visitors Bureau and has opened a satellite office in Hermosillo, Mexico, to assist the Southern Arizona business community with import and export needs, and to assist Sonoran businesses that plan to expand and grow in Arizona.

The Tucson Hispanic Chamber supports and opposes propositions and initiatives at the local, state and federal level. Decisions are reached after research, due diligence, internal discussion and an established process by which each issue is vetted by an active Public Policy Committee.

Our Chamber has established the following as priorities: job retention and creation, stability and profitability for our member's businesses, and attracting new businesses to the region. In this way, the THCC focuses on direct economic benefits, understanding that other entities may take different positions based upon environmental and social impacts. Today, in this region, business interests need a strong voice, and the THCC is committed to being a leader for business issues.

Positions on issues are not determined by the President. They are proposed by the Public Policy Committee, which is composed of THCC members and is open to any member at any time. Members of the committee have historically been representative of the political climate in the area. They are a mix of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents as well as small businesses, larger businesses, non-profits, and publicly traded corporations. There is a diversity of interests and opinions.

Business-related issues are discussed during the monthly meeting. Opinions are shared, and typically debate occurs. Each year the Public Policy Committee reviews THCC's Legislative Principles and revises them as necessary, given the current business climate and priorities. The Legislative Principles identify the business outcomes desired by the THCC on a broad array of issues which impact the businesses within Southern Arizona.

Once modified, the Legislative Principles are forwarded to the Board of Directors for review and approval. The Board then adopts the Legislative Principles that will guide the THCC for the upcoming year. The Legislative Principles are displayed on the THCC website ([www.tucsonhispanicchamber.org](http://www.tucsonhispanicchamber.org)) for public viewing.

**Your Opportunity for Greater Success - Su Oportunidad para Mayor Éxito**



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We have outlined a few of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's public policy positions below. Each position was developed consistent with our adopted Legislative Principles, after discussion, consensus and a recommendation to the Board by the Public Policy Committee. The positions listed below have been reviewed and approval by the THCC Board of Directors.

FEDERAL

- Support the Federal Dream Act and an educated workforce
- Support for Federal Comprehensive Immigration Reform (Please refer to Policy statement on our website)

STATE

- Support Prop 100 - Temporary State Sales Tax for Public Education
- Oppose the March 2011 Immigration Bills proposed by the State Legislature as 'bad for business'
- Oppose Prop 107 – the civil rights initiative due to its impact on woman and minority owned businesses
- Support Hospital Assessment as part of the State budget
- Neutral on the Bill SB1070 (Please refer to Policy Statement on SB1070 on our website)
- Oppose SB1070 Boycott of Arizona and Oppose Litigation as Solution, or Platform for Expressing Opposition

LOCAL

- Oppose Prop 400 – City of Tucson Sales Tax
- Support Prop 401 – Mayoral parity, Election timeline, Salary increases for council members
- Economic Support of the FRV Tucson Solar Farm
- Economic Support of Rosemont Copper Mine

The business community relies on elected leaders to remove obstacles, provide incentives, and adopt policies and regulations that help private business survive and thrive in our region. During 2010, the Chamber produced its first THCC City Council Report Card. A select number of City Council votes on issues affecting the business community were tracked on the report card.

Throughout the year, additional votes were tracked and added to the Report Card. The THCC is in the process of expanding its Tucson report card to include votes related to land and infrastructure, as well as adding other jurisdictions in the Region. The Public Policy Committee determines which votes to include on the Report Card and the Report Card is reviewed and ultimately approved at each THCC Board Meeting. In May of 2011 the THCC Board approved sharing the Tucson City Council Report Card with its Members on a quarterly basis.

We look forward to reporting to our members the positive votes of Tucson City Council and other jurisdictions as we expand the scope of the Report Card. We encourage our elected officials to communicate with us early in the public policy dialogue as we can be a helpful resource and our perspective can add value to the dialogue. We look forward to working closely with our elected officials and business leaders to accelerate our economic recovery and create a vibrant environment for business. Please feel free to contact either or both us with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Tara Torres Hungate, Chairwoman  
Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Lea Marquez Peterson, President / CEO  
Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

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