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July 1, 2020

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to express our concerns and disapproval with the recent announcement that you have invited Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to a meeting at the White House in early July. While this meeting may appear to be trade related and tied to the new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), it is nothing more than an attempt to distract from the coronavirus crisis and your failure to lead an adequate response to the pandemic. In border states such as Texas and Arizona, COVID-19 is out of control and your lack of leadership has already resulted in the deaths of more than 120,000 Americans and the gravest economic disaster since the Great Depression, both of which are decimating Latino communities. Furthermore, any meeting with the President of Mexico should include an explanation to why the Pentagon is keeping as many as 4,000 troops at the border despite any sign of an actual crisis and a plan for the United States to terminate the Migrant Protection Protocols, which have stranded over 60,000 asylum seekers in Mexico, violated international law, and subjected vulnerable women, men, and children to abuse, sex trafficking, kidnapping, and exploitation.

This meeting, while ostensibly to discuss the USMCA, is only scheduled to include President López Obrador, it is our understanding that it will not include Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose country is a key part of this trade agreement. If you are truly focused on discussing the USMCA, it appears that holding a meeting later would be most appropriate to ensure all involved countries could attend. Your decision to hold a meeting when the Congress is not in session, when members of Congress will be in our districts addressing the needs of communities across the United States that have been devastated

by this pandemic, is a blatant attempt to politicize the important U.S.-Mexico relationship along partisan lines.

For all the reasons listed above, we strongly urge you to reconsider and cancel this meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

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Tony Cardenas  
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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress