

January 9, 2017

Hon. Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Co-Chair
Hon. Mark Stone, Co-Chair
Special Committee on the Office of the Attorney General
California Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Congressman Xavier Becerra

Dear Co-Chairs Jones-Sawyer and Stone:

I write in strong support of the nomination of Congressman Xavier Becerra to be California's next Attorney General. I believe he is equipped by experience, intellect and integrity to assume the powers of that office.

Having proudly served as California's Attorney General, I respect the office as an important institution of this state and, understanding the serious requirements of the job, desire a fair and strong leader like Xavier Becerra.

Despite us having deeply held competing political philosophies with profound differences on some significant issues, I have found Congressman Becerra to be a man of genuine good will with an openness, even eagerness, to consider contrary views. I can attest to his ability to debate with others in an honest and collegial atmosphere in an effort to achieve a positive result.

Perhaps the best example of this occurred some years ago during our concurrent service in the U.S. House of Representatives. Xavier invited me to join him in a confidential working group/task force on one of the most contentious issues facing this nation – legal and illegal immigration. This diverse group, from all over the country, ranging from some of the most conservative to the most liberal members of the congress, met for several years – locked in earnest debate while seeking solutions to the most vexing aspects of this major challenge to our nation. We met regularly, sometimes weekly. We considered innumerable proposals, reaching agreement in a number of areas and even went so far as to commit seemingly workable elements to paper. While the effort was ultimately unsuccessful in the goal of bringing a final legislative product to the House floor, the exercise illustrated that, even in the most highly charged contexts, trust can replace distrust with a commitment to understanding and self-discipline. In this effort, Congressman Becerra's leadership was indispensable.

Xavier Becerra knows from his earlier work at the California Department of Justice that the Attorney General – the state's chief law enforcement officer – must ensure that state agencies

receive the best possible legal representation in order to fully implement that state's laws and policies. Most importantly, I believe he understands that the first obligation of government is to provide that modicum of safety and security which allows individuals to live their lives in freedom.

As one who has served the people of California on both the federal and state level, Congressman Becerra has a keen understanding of the interplay and natural tension established by the U.S. Constitution between the national government and the individual states of the union.

My discussions with him about the office to which he has been nominated have further convinced me that he has a strong grasp of the job at hand. In nominating Xavier Becerra, Governor Jerry Brown has presented this committee with a personal life story that is uniquely Californian. I respectfully urge your support to move his nomination to the Assembly for confirmation.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Dan Lungren

Member, U.S. House of Representatives, California (1979 – 1999; 2005 – 2013)

Attorney General of California (1991 – 1999)