

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES,
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR,
Los Angeles, CA, February 10, 2009.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: A search of our records reveals that all unsecured property taxes due as of February 10, 2009, have been paid in full and the associated liens filed in connection with the following names have been released:

Sams Fore Lessee
Sayyad, Sam
Sayyad, Sam DBA Sam's Auto Center

There were no liens filed by the Tax Collector under Sam's Foreign and Domestic Auto.

Should you need any further information, please contact me directly at (213) 893-7968.

Very truly yours,

MARK J. SALADINO,
Treasurer and Tax
Collector.

KATHY WATERS,
Operations Chief, Revenue and Enforcement Division.

Mr. ENZI. I thank the Presiding Officer and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to speak 6 or 7 minutes as in morning business, but I also would like to ask—if there is nobody on the other side of the aisle who would intervene—if I could have another 15 minutes after this time. I do not wish to take advantage of anything, but if they do not know of any other people from the Democratic Party who wish to speak, I would like to speak longer. But right now I ask unanimous consent for 6 or 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I forget. This is for my first 5 or 6 minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is correct.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. GRASSLEY are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

Mr. GRASSLEY. Now, Mr. President, if I could proceed to that other speech. If there are people from the other party, from the majority party, who come to the Chamber, I will be glad to yield the floor at the time of their appearance.

(The remarks of Mr. GRASSLEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 458 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

RECESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:28 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARPER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

NOMINATION OF HILDA L. SOLIS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF LABOR—Continued

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, we are on the Solis nomination this afternoon.

I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators on our side be recognized to speak: Senator MENENDEZ for 10 minutes, Senator SANDERS for 15 minutes, Senator DODD for 15 minutes, and Senator BOXER for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. To speak in that order?

Mrs. MURRAY. No. These Senators requested that time, and we will go back and forth in the usual fashion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to give my strong support to President Obama's choice to lead the Department of Labor.

It is hard to stress enough how urgent it is for us to have a Labor Secretary at work in the face of this economic crisis: 3.6 million Americans have lost their jobs since this recession began in December of 2007—almost 600,000 in the last month alone—workers are losing their health care, their pensions, and their life savings.

The American men and women who have been damaged the worst by the financial crisis we have had—the worst financial crisis in generations—need full unemployment benefits to carry their families through this period of transition and the benefit of job training to be able to meet the challenges of the 21st century economy.

Those who still have a job to go to every day need a champion for their rights and their safety. As the American people struggle through these difficult economic times, it is more important than ever to have a fully functioning and fully staffed Department of Labor.

At this moment, we need a Secretary of Labor who believes workers should not be intimidated when they try to organize. We need a Secretary of Labor who believes that after decades of stagnation, it is time for wages to rise. We need a Secretary of Labor who believes it is not acceptable for women to make 78 cents for every dollar a man earns, for African Americans to earn 80 cents and Latinos to earn 68 cents for every dollar their white counterparts earn.

Some will argue that a recession is an inconvenient time to pay workers a fair wage or to protect them from exposure to dangerous chemicals because the economy will suffer under the weight of additional benefits or rights for employees. We need a Secretary who understands how false that argument is.

For 8 years, we have seen administration policies punish workers for their efforts and treat their rights in a way that ultimately can't sustain their hopes, dreams, aspirations, and their families.

The Bush administration virtually gutted the Department of Labor, drastically cutting its budget, choosing instead to trust CEOs and big business to look after the welfare of workers. In 8 years, the Department issued only one worker safety rule on its own accord. While the Department was neglecting to address safety in the workplace, it focused its attention on helping corporate interests weaken the rules for overtime compensation. After 8 years, we have seen who actually benefits from these policies: No one.

We now know that being pro-labor is pro-economic growth. We know a rising tide of wages can lift the ships of business as well, as American workers are also the customers who purchase our products and services. It is time we acted on a clear principle: An economy that works is an economy that works for everyone.

I can think of no one better to take up the challenge than HILDA SOLIS. She has the best interests of American workers in her heart and her blood. She is the daughter of union workers, the first in her family to go to college. I had the privilege of serving with her in the House of Representatives. She has served the people of southern California in Congress for 8 years, not just advocating for their rights but for recovery, not just expanded help for workers but creating jobs to expand the workforce. She knows that with the right investments, we will fuel the creation of millions of green jobs, bring down energy costs and end our dependence on foreign oil.

She has won friends on both sides of the aisle, and even when they don't agree with her on every issue, they cannot help but respect her work ethic, her intelligence, and her integrity. I know very much so that she is eminently capable to lead the Department of Labor. Also people throughout the country cannot help but admire history in the making. HILDA SOLIS would be the first Latina to hold the position of Secretary in a President's Cabinet. That is incredibly powerful for young Latinas across this country, a growing part of America's population who will look to a HILDA SOLIS and say that in fact everything is possible.

I look forward to voting to confirm her today because America's workforce and our economy cannot afford to wait.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from New Jersey for supporting the nomination of HILDA SOLIS to be President Obama's choice to lead the Department of Labor. I too rise in support of this nomination. Having served in a President's Cabinet myself and gone through this arduous and difficult process of confirmation, I adhere to the principle that a President should get the right to nominate his Cabinet and should have the opportunity to name the people he chooses to work with. It is, obviously, up to the