



June 12, 2020

U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6225

Dear Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Menendez:

As the presidents of non-partisan and non-governmental organizations representing former ambassadors and senior officials, we write to express our concern about the numerous ambassadorial and senior diplomatic nominations pending in the Senate. Many of the embassies concerned have been without a Senate confirmed ambassador for months or longer. As you know, if these many nominees are not confirmed before the end of the 116th Congress, the nominations will lapse, and the process will have to begin all over again. Regardless of who wins the election this process will consume an extended, additional period during which the affected embassies will remain devoid of an ambassador.

We recognize that current conditions involving restrictions on normal work imposed by the Covid-19 virus have made Senate operations difficult. Nevertheless, creative ways can be found to meet the national interest in having diplomatic leadership in the field within the operating procedures and practices of the Senate.

Accordingly, we request you to make every effort to move the maximum number of ambassadorial nominations through the confirmation process as speedily as possible and certainly before the end of the 116th Congress.

With appreciation for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Timothy A. Chorba in black ink.

Timothy A. Chorba
President
Council of American Ambassadors

Handwritten signature of Ronald E. Neumann in black ink.

Ronald E. Neumann
President
American Academy of Diplomacy

CC: Sen. John A. Barrasso, Sen. Cory A. Booker, Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, Sen. Christopher Coons, Sen. Ted Cruz, Sen. Cory Gardner, Sen. Lindsey O. Graham, Sen. Ron Johnson, Sen. Tim Kaine, Sen. Edward J. Markey, Sen. Jeffrey Merkley, Sen. Christopher S. Murphy, Sen. Rand Paul, Sen. David Perdue, Sen. Rob Portman, Sen. Mitt Romney, Sen. Marco Rubio, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Sen. Tom Udall, Sen. Todd Young

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