

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Steven Terner Mnuchin
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

July 18, 2017

Dear Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Ross, and Secretary Mnuchin:

We were encouraged to read in President Trump's June 16 National Security Presidential Memorandum on Strengthening the Policy of the United States Toward Cuba that the President wishes to encourage the growth of the Cuban private sector. To this end, we traveled to Washington, D.C. to present the attached [recommendations](#) to U.S. policymakers outlining ways U.S. policy can support Cuba's private sector.

First, we recommend policymakers allow U.S. travelers to continue to travel as individuals to Cuba. U.S. travel to Cuba directly benefits private entrepreneurs and their families. The vast majority of U.S. individual travelers (vs. groups) frequent private lodging, restaurants and transportation services. Fewer travelers will have a direct negative impact on businesses in the hospitality sector as well as an indirect negative impact on connected enterprises.

Second, we encourage U.S. policy to allow Cuba's private sector access to goods and remittances. Remittances are essential to Cuba's private sector, providing the financing to begin, and the working capital to sustain, businesses. Remittances also provide Cuban consumers with the ability to patronize private businesses. A U.S. policy of not restricting remittances is therefore critical to the health of the private sector.

Third, we recommend greater flexibility for Cubans wishing to open bank accounts in the United States. Many Cuban entrepreneurs purchase goods and services in the United States to help run their businesses. Cubans are legally permitted to open bank accounts in the U.S., but there are restrictions on the allowable transactions, and limited and uncertain account services, impairing businesses in both countries.

Finally, we urge the U.S. to continue dialogue and cooperation with the Cuban government and other Cuban entities. Most Cuban entrepreneurs view improved relations between the U.S. and Cuba as a net positive for their businesses, and many developed their business model on this premise.

Sincerely,

Nidialys Acosta; **Nostalgicar**
Julio Alvarez; **Nostalgicar**
Julia de la Rosa; **La Rosa de Ortega B&B**
Reymel Delgado; **Estudio 50**

Niuris Higuera; **Atelier Restaurant**
Celia Mendoza; **Concierge Habana**
Robin Pedraja; **Vistar Magazine**
Yamina Vicente; **Decorazón Event Planning**