



March 2, 2009

**The Honorable Hilda Solis
Secretary, Department of Labor**

A hard copy will be sent via "Special Delivery, return receipt Requested" to the Dept. of Labor

Dear Madame Secretary:

Congratulations on your Senate confirmation. Our nation benefits when a person of your ability, belief and background serves as our Labor Secretary.

I am requesting a meeting with you concerning a written commitment by President Obama to the Asian American community to provide equal opportunity in workplaces for Asian Americans, when he became the President. His unequivocal commitment is attached below.

As you will see from the attached, then Senator Obama replied to a questionnaire submitted to him by the 80-20 Educational Foundation (EF) with a single word, YES, to all six questions. The first 3 of the 6 questions deal with assuring equal opportunity in workplaces for Asian Americans through the enforcement of Executive Order 11246, which comes under your authority as the Labor Secretary. That is why I am requesting a meeting with you.

This letter to you is copied to Chris Lu, Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary of the White House. He is knowledgeable about President Obama's commitment to us and is aware that I am requesting a meeting with you.

Then Sen. Obama was deeply moved by the information presented to him by EF which included the following:

"Asian Americans have the least opportunity to enter management when compared with blacks, Hispanics and women; the slowest rate of progress toward equal employment opportunity, despite having the highest educational attainment."

To see the validity of the above statement, please click on http://www.80-20educationalfoundation.org/projects/equalopp_washingtonpost_wpad.asp and see Tables 1 and 2 and related statements in a full page ad in the Washington Post on 9/6/06. The data and conclusion have been verified, in writing, by EEOC's Chief Statistician Ronald Edwards. If you are interested, I can provide you with a copy of his letter. This ad had also

been entered into the Congressional Record by Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware on 9/21/06.

You may already know about the report issued by EEOC on 1/9/2009. After a year long study, the first recommendation in the report stated:

"Strong leadership and personal commitment to diversity comes from the top down. To that end, the workgroup recommends that an Executive Order be issued by the President regarding a commitment to increased participation rates of AAPIs [Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders] in all segments of the federal sector."

Although the specific recommendation refers to Asian Am. federal employees only, the language of the report is strong and general. It clearly implies that the discrimination against Asian Americans in workplaces is not limited to Federal government only. Given the EEOC report, I'd like to ask you to consider whether the "public hearing" step of the 3 step process, as outlined in EF's questionnaire, regarding the enforcement of E.O. 11246 for Asian Americans will still be necessary.

Your Department will likely be very busy with the Employee Free Choice Act. However, you can create a wonderful win-win situation for President Obama, the Labor Department and the Asian American community by immediately asking the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs "to focus on enforcing Executive Order 11246 on behalf of Asian Americans," as stated in question 2 of our questionnaire. Skipping the public hearings can save you and your Department a lot of energy and resources.

Not a day should be lost in the delivery of equal opportunity to all Americans. Not a day should be lost to help make America "a more perfect Union."

I look forward to hearing from you soon. It will be an honor and a privilege to meet with you and answer your questions.

Sincerely,



S. B. Woo

President, The 80-20 Educational Foundation, Inc.

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Cc: Chris Lu,

Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary, the White House

Board Members, 80-20 Educational Foundation