

Senator Bob Menendez  
Chair  
United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

October 11, 2021

Dear Senator Menendez,

I am writing to provide a statement of support for the appointment of former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel to be United States Ambassador to Japan. Mayor Emanuel is an outstanding choice for United States Ambassador to Japan for many reasons. I have had the opportunity to work with him in a wide variety of settings over the course of a decade: as President and CEO of the Chicago Urban League, where I served for 5 years following a five year term on the board of the National Urban League; as a member of the Chicago Board of Education; as member of the Chicago Police Board; as Deputy Mayor and Chief Neighborhood Development Officer and as CEO of World Business Chicago, the city's economic development organization.

I have worked with Mayor Emanuel on the development and implementation of policies and strategies aimed at improving the quality of life and access to opportunity for all Chicagoans and I know from first-hand experience that he is fully aligned with the Biden/Harris administration's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access. Let me provide just one example from the many I have observed. When I was CEO of the Chicago Urban League, I had the opportunity to partner with the Emanuel administration on the reconstruction of the Red Line South. At Mayor Emanuel's direction, the Chicago Transit Authority worked with the Urban League to create a model for minority inclusion. We doubled the MWBE contracting requirement on the \$425 Million infrastructure investment, set a new standard for community-based minority hiring, and neighborhoods on the South Side were first in line for modernized mass transit.

Mayor Emanuel also has had substantial prior experience that makes him particularly well suited for this appointment. Again, just one example of many I could give. During my time as President and CEO of World Business Chicago, I travelled with former Mayor Emanuel to Japan on an economic development mission where he signed an economic development agreement between Chicago and Japan, the country's first ever with a city. During that trip former Mayor Emanuel had positive interactions with government, business and civic leaders in Japan and developed relationships that will serve him well as he steps into the role of US Ambassador.

Finally, I have seen Mayor Emanuel effectively work, meet, connect and engage with people from every conceivable background and walk of life. From residents in some of Chicago's most challenged communities, to local, state, national and international government officials, to CEO's of some of our region's and country's largest companies. His ability to listen and identify areas of common ground is a tremendous asset that he will bring to the role.

For these reasons and more, I wholeheartedly endorse Mayor Emanuel's appointment as United States Ambassador to Japan and urge you to confirm him for the role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea L. Zopp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrea" being the most prominent part.

Andrea L. Zopp