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From: Daschle, Nathan <nathan@daschlegroup.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 10:12:43 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Intro

Sorry sent too soon. Thanks again.

DISSEMINATED BY THE DASCHLE GROUP, A REGISTERED FOREIGN AGENT, ON BEHALF OF THE AD HOC BOARD OF PETROLEOS DE VENEZUELA, S.A. THROUGH WHITE & CASE LLC.

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June 13, 2025

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary
Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Bessent and Secretary Rubio:

[I am/we are] writing to underscore serious concerns regarding the impending forced sale of CITGO, a critical U.S.-based energy company whose ownership interest is held by Venezuela's democratic opposition. In 2019, the United States recognized and empowered Venezuela's interim democratic government by providing control of Petróleos de Venezuela S.A. (PDVSA) assets in the United States, including CITGO, an action that advanced our foreign policy objectives and reinforced our commitment to democracy and the rule of law.

Today, that effort is at risk. [I/We] urge the Administration to fully utilize its legal and constitutional tools to preserve the protections initially established in 2019, and to work directly with Venezuela's legitimate democratic representatives in charting a sustainable future for CITGO. This vital asset has long served as a symbol and source of hope for a free Venezuela and must not be lost through a rushed or coercive sale process.

The United States should act swiftly to halt the ongoing divestiture and instead seek a responsible, negotiated solution to outstanding claims involving Venezuela and its state-owned enterprises. Our national interest, regional stability, and the democratic aspirations of the Venezuelan people are associated on keeping CITGO out of the hands of those who do not share our values. Furthermore, CITGO under PDVSA Ad Hoc Board's control has been a reliable supplier of refined products contributing to the energy security of the United States.

Therefore, protecting CITGO while working on alternative solutions would fulfill both goals: promoting democratic principles in the region and securing reliable energy supply in the United States.

CITGO has the potential to serve as a cornerstone in Venezuela's eventual recovery—economic and democratic. It is imperative that we safeguard this institution and maintain the leverage it provides until the Venezuelan people can freely determine their future.

Sincerely,

CONGRESSWOMAN MARÍA E. SALAZAR
27TH DISTRICT OF FLORIDA



COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

May 29th, 2025

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary
Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Bessent and Secretary Rubio,

I write to express my ongoing concerns regarding the forced sale of the democratic Venezuelan National Assembly's ownership interest in the U.S. oil refiner CITGO. In 2019, the Trump administration empowered the democratic opposition by granting them control of Venezuela's overseas assets. Unfortunately, that control was undermined by the Biden administration, which allowed the regime's creditors to pursue their claims against those assets using U.S. courts. I urge the Administration to continue to exercise its constitutional powers to maintain the full blocking protection that the Trump Administration put in place in 2019 to safeguard CITGO in the service of U.S. foreign policy, energy security and national security concerns and engage directly with Venezuela's democratic leaders to determine a path forward for this strategic sovereign asset.

CITGO is vital to the future of democracy in Venezuela.

During his first term, President Trump transferred control of CITGO from the hands of the Maduro Regime to the democratic opposition based in the United States. They have stewarded CITGO ever since then through difficult economic and political times. CITGO needs to remain in hands of the opposition in order to be able to reconstruct Venezuela after the regime falls.

Maduro and his cronies stole the money, they should pay.

The plaintiffs against CITGO are really plaintiffs against Maduro and the Chavista crooks that ran PDVSA in Venezuela into the ground. The Venezuelan opposition desperately trying to restore freedom to their country shouldn't have to pay the debts of Maduro and his cronies.

Stop the sale process and save CITGO from dismemberment.

I urge the Administration to bar the continuation of the sale process through its economic powers, revoke the previous administration's favorable sanctions licensing policy regarding the sale announced in May 2023, and explore options to find an equitable and orderly settlement of claims against the Republic of Venezuela and PDVSA.

We need to give a chance to bring freedom and democracy back to Venezuela – CITGO can play a key role in that process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Salazar', written over a white background.

Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress