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FOR RELEASE November 12, 2007

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TENNESSEE HISPANIC CHAMBER HEAD MEETS
WITH FORMER MEXICAN PRESIDENT

Cisneros, Fox Discuss Trade Issues, Immigration

Two officials of the Tennessee Hispanic Chamber of Commerce met with former President of Mexico Vicente Fox in Cincinnati Ohio. He was the keynote speaker of the Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati USA's annual gala. Ramon Cisneros, president of the Tennessee Hispanic chamber and Ralph Levy, the chamber's general council, had a conversation with Fox covering the importance of Mexico as a commercial partner for Tennessee businesses and the need to continue fueling those relationships.

Cisneros noted Fox told him directly, "that Tennessee companies maintain an important trade relation with Mexico but more work needs to be done to educate medium and small businesses about the opportunities available in Mexico and the convenience of dealing with a neighbor. Just like the big corporations have been doing for years."

Cisneros believes that more Tennessee companies need to learn about the purchasing power of Mexico, the manufacturing opportunities there, and position themselves to do business with and in Mexico. Fox's presentation highlighted the different automotive and aerospace manufacturing plants that are located around the entire country.

Fox is traveling the United States a part of a three-week U.S. tour to promote stronger economic and diplomatic ties with Mexico.

"Fox's views on issues such as immigration reform, NAFTA, and the War in Iraq are of extraordinary value because of his experience as president of Mexico and also his strong ties to the US" said Ramon Cisneros - President and Chairman of the Board of the Tennessee Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

On immigration, the former president quoted from his book "From Queen City to El Zocalo" which narrates the origins of the Fox family in Cincinnati and the journey of Joe Fox. Fox's grandfather, Joseph Fox, grew up in Cincinnati, where he went to school and worked before moving to Mexico in 1897. "When we look back far enough, we are all immigrants," he said.

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In his presentation Vicente Fox indicated the need to build bridges rather than walls along the Mexican Border. "Immigrants built this great nation," he said. Mexico is one of the top 10 economies in the world, he said. Fox had ample charts that reflected the position of Mexico in today's world economy and the growth of the Mexican industry over the last 10 years. "Mexico is a natural market for the United States not only for its geographical location but because of the many cultural, religious, and ethnic roots that both nations share" said Fox.

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