

Testimony of Eliot Pedrosa
Nominee to be U.S. Alternate Executive Director
of the InterAmerican Development Bank (IDB)
Hearing Before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
May 9, 2018

Chairman Corker, Ranking Member Menendez, and Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee:

I am profoundly humbled to appear before this august body as President Trump's nominee to represent the United States as Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank. I want to thank the President, Secretary Mnuchin and Under Secretary David Malpass for supporting my nomination, and I would like to thank each of the distinguished members of this Committee for giving me the opportunity to present my qualifications for your consideration as you discharge your important constitutional role to advise and, hopefully, consent to this nomination.

Before I continue, I want to thank my family for their love and support. My wife, Nilda is here, by my side in this as in all endeavors. She is my inspiration, my motivation, and the love of my life. My parents are here as well. My mom and dad, Ines and Elier Pedrosa, had the courage to leave behind communist oppression in Cuba and risk everything to start over in the United States. Everything I am, I am because of them. Lastly my in-laws could not be here today, but they are live-streaming this hearing at home. I would like to thank them for their support: Nilda Rosa, Ricardo Rodriguez, and my brother-in-law, Rick Rodriguez.

Over my 18 years of legal practice I have represented clients in matters throughout the Americas from Mexico down to the Southern Cone. This is a region blessed with incredible promise and opportunity, rich natural resources, and warm, dynamic people.

But I have seen first-hand some of the challenges they face. I have seen how weak institutions, unchecked corruption, political instability, and economic uncertainty can throttle private enterprise. I am aware that too many of our fellow citizens of the Americas are still deprived of their basic rights to life, liberty, property and a fair opportunity for prosperity by corrupt and oppressive governments, violent criminal gangs, and the crushing weight of hopelessness.

As Americans, it is in our vital national interest to face these challenges and work to help our neighbors create, nourish and sustain stable, prosperous democracies in every corner of our shared hemisphere.

If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I will devote myself to working in partnership with my colleagues, both in the Executive Branch as well as the Congress – and especially in this Committee – to ensure that the IDB continues to be an important part of the solution to the problems that we face together. I firmly believe that American leadership and sound investment, both public and private, can change outcomes in the region for the better, and I hope to have the opportunity to work with you and your staffs to achieve that goal.

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Menendez, I thank you again for this opportunity to appear before you and the other Members of the Committee, and I look forward to your questions.