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Tony Villamil has over twenty-five years of successful experience as a business economist and high-level policymaker at both federal and state governments. He has served as a U.S. Undersecretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs and is currently Chief Executive Officer of The Washington Economics Group, an economics and business consulting practice now in its second decade of operations. His areas of specialization are in economic analysis, economic development, trade policy, the U.S. Hispanic market and the Florida economy.

Dr. Villamil is a member of the President’s Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations in Washington, D.C. He recently served as Chairman of the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors of Florida. During 1999-2000, he directed the Tourism, Trade and Economic Development activities of the State in the Executive Office of Governor Jeb Bush. Presently, he is on the Board of Directors of the Spanish Broadcasting System (NASDAQ), Mercantil Commercebank, N.A. and Enterprise Florida – the State’s principal economic development organization.

Among other leadership positions, Dr. Villamil served on the Property Tax Reform Committee of Florida during 2006 and is currently Chairman of the Economic Roundtable of the Beacon Council – Miami-Dade County’s official economic development organization. He is Senior Research Fellow of Florida TaxWatch, an established fiscal and policy research organization of the State. After winning the Gubernatorial elections in November 2006, then Governor-elect Charlie Crist appointed him as his Economic Advisor during the transition period.

Tony earned Bachelor and Master degrees in Economics from Louisiana State University (LSU) where he also completed coursework for the PhD. In 1991, Florida International University (FIU) awarded him a doctoral degree in Economics (*HC*), for “distinguished contributions to the Nation in the field of economics.” Dr. Villamil publishes widely on economics and trade policy topics, and is a part-time professor in the MBA programs of Florida International University (FIU). He was Senior Fellow of the Latin American and Caribbean Center of FIU from 1993-1994.