



January 16, 2024

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: SMACNA Supports the Nomination of Julie Su to Serve as DOL Secretary

Dear Senator:

The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA) is supported by more than 3,500 construction firms engaged in industrial, commercial, residential, architectural and specialty sheet metal and air conditioning construction throughout the United States. **On behalf of our membership, SMACNA would like to voice its support for a fair and expedited nomination process and confirmation of Acting Secretary Julie Su to serve as the 30th Secretary of Labor** of the U.S. Department of Labor. In her current role as Acting Secretary and her previous role as Deputy Secretary, Ms. Su has loyally, professionally, and effectively served the President, to faithfully implement the laws as enacted. Further, she has served the Administration's documented policies advocating for labor – management cooperation and fair enforcement of the laws. We have especially appreciated her contribution to positively reform the regulations for the Davis-Bacon Act, Registered Apprenticeship, Independent Contractor, and other labor standards too long ignored by previous administrations.

Acting Secretary Su has led the national effort to reform outdated rules to better reflect the intent of enacted statutes and helped energize the Labor Department effort to reform and expand registered apprenticeship programs to meet and address the skilled workforce shortage crisis. In addition, Acting Secretary Su has followed former Secretary Walsh's emphasis on enforcing long-established workplace laws routinely followed by scrupulous and law-abiding contractors and small businesses. While many unscrupulous businesses and their advocates may find this enhanced enforcement of the nation's labor laws alarming, advocating for the nation's laws designed to protect both employees and law-abiding employers is the unquestioned mandate for DOL. To do any less provides an anticompetitive advantage for employers refusing to follow basic employment, wage, and hour standards and many other training and health and safety rules.

During her tenure as Deputy Secretary of Labor, Ms. Su served as the chief operating officer for the department managing its budget and executing the laws as passed. Ms. Su consistently met with, worked with, and listened to both employers and employees to best advance enacted statutes and advocate reasonable national labor – management policy. This has been especially true as the Department leads in implementing historic new laws, such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, CHIPS and Science Act, and Inflation Reduction Act. Each of these landmark laws important to the business community, also requires the Department to guarantee proper implementation of long valued labor standards.

Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Labor, Deputy Secretary Su served as the secretary for the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. As California labor commissioner from 2011 through 2018, Su was charged with the duty to enforce the state's labor laws mandated by court order, enacted by the legislature, and signed by the Governor to ensure compliance in countless and varied workplaces. She was an engaged force between unions and employers where she successfully connected



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hopeful workers with apprenticeships and high skilled, well-paying union jobs. While a most helpful chapter to her expanding her experience, the position at US Secretary of Labor is one without comparison at the State level, even in the largest state economy in our nation, a state that exceeds most of the other states in population.

SMACNA's membership includes thousands of firms specializing in public work projects involving energy saving performance contracting, facility energy management and residential, commercial, public, and industrial energy system service, construction, and efficient retrofits. Based upon our extensive experience working with US Department of Labor officials for many decades, we urge you to take swift action and confirm this critical nomination so DOL can function as its mandate requires – to advocate and serve the nation's workforce as well as their workplaces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanley E. Kolbe, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stanley E. Kolbe, Jr.
Executive Director, Government and Political Affairs
SMACNA - Capitol Hill Office