



January 25, 2023

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chair, Committee on Health,
Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD
Ranking Member, Committee on
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Sanders & Ranking Member Cassidy:

I am writing on behalf of the membership of the Signatory Wall and Ceiling Contractors Alliance (SWACCA) to advise you of our strong support for President Biden's nomination of Jessica Looman to be Administrator of the Department of Labor's Wage & Hour Division (WHD). Ms. Looman has done a remarkable job as Acting Administrator to ensure a level playing field for law abiding businesses that seek to create and maintain well-paying jobs with family-sustaining health and retirement benefits. During her tenure at WHD and prior to this position, she has always demonstrated an even-handed and open-minded approach to all stakeholders on issues under her purview. Simply put, Ms. Looman has demonstrated the competence, integrity, and temperament this important job requires.

SWACCA is a national association representing construction company owners employing tens of thousands of laborers, drywall finishers, plasterers, and carpenters who perform billions of dollars of framing, drywall, ceiling, and other interior systems work annually throughout the United States. SWACCA prides itself on serving as a voice for responsible employers. Our member companies pay their workers for every hour worked, as well as overtime when their work exceeds forty hours in a week. They also provide middle-class wages, sponsor training programs, and offer retirement and health benefits.

Throughout her career, Ms. Looman has been a strong advocate for the rule of law and creating a level playing field for employers, like SWACCA members, that seek to do things the right way, particularly in the construction industry, where she has worked tirelessly to improve business practices for the benefit of both workers and their employers. Ms. Looman has an appreciation for the perspective of both employers, from her service as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Commerce under Gov. Mark Dayton (D-MN), and workers, from her tenure as the Executive Director of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council. This experience allows her to appreciate the varying perspectives of the WHD's array of stakeholders. It also makes her mindful of the need to take a balanced approach to ensuring compliance with the law that entails a combination of employer-friendly compliance assistance and smart, targeted enforcement directed at bad actors.

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Ms. Looman also has the substantive knowledge to lead effective efforts to clarify WHD regulations to improve compliance with federal laws while reducing burdens on employers. While pursuing major regulatory undertakings, Ms. Looman has also elevated compliance assistance to a priority across WHD regional offices. We appreciate that she has made senior WHD officials available to answer questions and provide useful compliance guidance. Given the challenges facing both employers and workers in the post-COVID-19 workplace, it is essential that the WHD continues to be led by an individual with the experience, knowledge, commitment, and balanced temperament Ms. Looman has demonstrated.

Thank you in advance for your attention to our views on Ms. Looman's nomination. We hope that the Committee will move expeditiously to consider and once again send her nomination to the full Senate for consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can be of assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Klugh
President

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