

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, D.C. 20515

February 17, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We, as Members of Congress, write to recommend Julie Su, who currently serves as the Deputy Secretary of Labor for the U.S. Department of Labor, for the Cabinet position of U.S. Secretary of Labor. Throughout her career, Deputy Secretary Su has shown a deep commitment to championing workers' rights and fair labor practices, as well as advancing equity and opportunities for all workers, including ones from historically underserved communities. Deputy Secretary Su is a strong woman of color who is eminently qualified to take on the responsibility as U.S. Secretary of Labor and would deliver results for American workers and your administration immediately upon her confirmation.

If nominated and confirmed as Secretary for the Department of Labor, Deputy Secretary Su can build upon the existing successful initiatives of the Department while hitting the ground running on implementing new ones:

- She has been a key leader at the Department of Labor, working closely with Secretary Walsh to avert a nationwide railroad strike, reinvigorating labor standards enforcement to protect the most vulnerable workers, modernizing workforce development programs to advance good jobs, equity, and labor management partnerships, and deploying DOL's full authority to advance your agenda for an economy built from the bottom up and middle out.
- As the de facto Chief Operating Officer for the Department of Labor, she has a keen understanding of the Department, its operations, and its initiatives, and will be in a position to deliver immediately on the goals of your Administration with respect to labor, workforce, and employment issues.
- Prior to her role at the Department of Labor, she served in the Chief Executive Officer role as Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency – one of the largest state labor departments in the nation with over 11,000 employees – where she oversaw the state departments and boards that enforce labor laws, including minimum wage and occupational safety standards, provide state disability and unemployment insurance benefits, fund workforce training and apprenticeship programs, combat wage theft, protect injured workers, and arbitrate public sector contract disputes.

- As Labor Secretary of California, she was also a critical leader during the COVID crisis, addressing the delivery of unemployment insurance, ensuring workplace health and safety, and promoting a sound economic policy to support small businesses and their workers. Further, she helped to lead Governor Gavin Newsom’s Future of Work Commission to develop and realize a vision for labor and employment that bridges inequality in the decades to come.
- She has led both national and international efforts on issues related to a modernized workforce, elimination of child and forced labor, and strengthening workers’ rights.
- She is nationally recognized as one of the nation’s top experts on workers’ rights and civil rights and has dedicated her distinguished legal career to advancing justice on behalf of poor and disenfranchised communities.

As the daughter of immigrants who grew up translating for her parents, Deputy Secretary Su’s personal story also represents the best of America. Her voice and perspective would be invaluable to the Administration, especially as there is no Secretary-level Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) official currently serving in your Cabinet – the first time the AANHPI communities have not had representation at this level since 2000.

Your appointment of Deputy Secretary Su to lead the U.S. Department of Labor would be an opportunity for your administration to ensure equity in representation for all communities of color at the Cabinet Secretary level. We urge you to swiftly nominate Deputy Secretary Julie Su to the role of Labor Secretary when appropriate and we welcome further dialogue with you and your office regarding her qualifications. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator

Becca Balint  
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Ed Case  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress

Al Green  
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



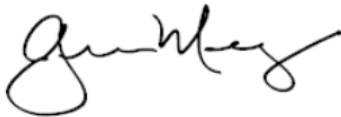
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Scott Peters  
Member of Congress



Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



Jill Tokuda  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress