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Executive Director

April 19, 2023

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Re: Nomination of Julie Su for United States Secretary of Labor

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

On behalf of the Port of Los Angeles (“POLA” or “Port”) I write to support President Biden’s nomination of Julie A. Su to serve as the U.S. Secretary of Labor.

The Port of Los Angeles is the nation’s premier gateway for international commerce and the busiest seaport in the Western Hemisphere. In 2022, the Port facilitated more than \$200 billion in trade—connecting every corner of the U.S. with 160 countries around the world—and handled a total of 9.9 million container units. The operational scale of the Port is vast, including 27 private terminals, 270 berths, roughly 200,000 unique shippers, 1,700 annual ship calls, and 100 daily trains. With 15,000 longshore workers, 20,000 daily truck trips, and nearly 2 billion square feet of commercial warehousing space in the region, the port complex and our broader region is home to a large and diverse goods movement workforce. Therefore, our nation’s economic success and prosperity requires a Secretary of Labor that is familiar with workforce issues here at America’s port.

Since her time as Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, Julie Su has served as a thought partner as the Port promotes the advancement of the goods movement workforce. As California Labor Secretary, she and her team worked with POLA to develop innovative training programs to help entering longshore workers reduce injuries and increase productivity on our port terminals. Since that time, she has also supported POLA’s vision, which will soon become a reality, to build the nation’s first goods movement training campus at the port. The 20-acre facility will train longshore, trucking, and warehouse workers and serve as an industry resource to train workers on how to operate, maintain, and repair zero emission cargo handling equipment.

Due to the variety of stakeholders in the goods movement sector, the industry has a complex labor environment. Acting Secretary Su – as California Labor Secretary and US Deputy Secretary of Labor – has successfully navigated this environment over the years by bringing together (with POLA serving as a co-host) port authorities, labor unions, the trucking community, and private sector employers to discuss how the various stakeholders can work together on issues such as worker centered training, health and safety of essential workers that continued to work during the Covid-19 pandemic, or how to introduce cleaner equipment and vehicles to this industry while supporting the workforce most directly impacted by the new technology.

Her collaboration and knowledge of this goods movement industry makes her confirmation critical, now more than ever, as global and national supply chains continue to re-balance after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please accept the support of the Port of Los Angeles for the nomination and quick confirmation of Julie A. Su as the next United States Secretary of Labor.

Respectfully,

Port of Los Angeles



EUGENE D. SEROKA
Executive Director