



October 24, 2023

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: SMACNA Endorses Jessica Looman as Administrator of DOL's Wage and Hour Division

Dear Senator:

The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA) is supported by more than 3,500 construction firms specializing in industrial, commercial, residential, architectural and specialty sheet metal and air conditioning construction in public and private markets throughout the United States. **On behalf of SMACNA, I want to express our strongest and most enthusiastic endorsement for Jessica Looman to serve as Administrator of the US Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD).** Ms. Looman was reported by a bipartisan (12-9) HELP Committee vote to the Senate floor March 28th due to her outstanding qualifications, experience, fairness, and judgement while serving at the Department of Labor as well as in many highly important private and public service positions at the local, state, and federal levels.

Over many decades of reviewing candidates for federal appointments, SMACNA as a CEO member corporate trade association has very rarely endorsed a nominee for federal office. However, we make a special exception to support Jessica Looman to be WHD Administrator due to years of appreciation for her dedication and ability as well as our first-hand experience viewing her fairness, judgement, and professionalism at the state and federal levels. Our member corporations have appreciated her work up close, from her service as Minnesota Commissioner of Commerce, Assistant and Deputy Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and later as Executive Director of the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council. Ms. Looman made significant progress in Minnesota to increase private and public investment in construction infrastructure, an effort benefitting contractors and workers alike as well as the Minnesota taxpayer. During tenure at the Minnesota and US DOL she actively supported increasing construction workforce training quality, public project safety and productivity. On these long ignored regulatory matters she has earned the trust of our industry and introduced policy proposals important to our thousands of firms and their workforce.

In summary, SMACNA views Ms. Looman as a highly competent, first-rate administrator supportive of a construction industry where a growing skilled workforce led by quality driven firms. For that reason and many more, we endorse Jessica Looman to be the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the US Department of Labor.

In our view, there is no more qualified and experienced person to lead the Wage and Hour Division.

Sincerely,

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



CAPITOL HILL OFFICE: 305 4TH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20002
PHONE: 202 547 8202 • FAX: 202 547 8810 • WEB: www.smacna.org/advocacy

HEADQUARTERS: 4201 LAFAYETTE CENTER DRIVE • CHANTILLY VA 20151-1209

MAIL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 221230 • CHANTILLY VA 20153-1230

PHONE: 703 803 2980 • FAX: 703 803 3732 • WEB: www.smacna.org