



February 10, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairman, Senate Committee on  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee  
on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Murray, and Ranking Member Burr:

As a coalition of the nation's largest labor unions and environmental groups, collectively representing millions of members and supporters, the BlueGreen Alliance writes in full support of the nomination of the Honorable Martin J. Walsh to be the next Secretary of Labor.

This nomination comes at a critical time for our country. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll and it's nowhere close to done. Months into the pandemic, workers continue to struggle to stay safe and healthy on the job. The actions of the last four years under the Trump administration have only served to promote the interests of corporate executives over working people. Workers deserve a representative at the Department of Labor that is going to fight for them, and one that recognizes that we don't have to choose between a good job and a clean environment – or between health and a strong economy. We can and must have both.

A comprehensive approach to tackling this pandemic and our economic crisis can be done in ways that will create and sustain good union jobs, strengthen our communities and economy, rebuild American manufacturing, and increase U.S. competitiveness all while tackling the underlying crises of climate change, economic inequality, and racial injustice. This approach must be centered and rooted in rebuilding worker power, and the BlueGreen Alliance is firm in

the belief that Martin Walsh can be the trusted leader at the Department of Labor to get the job done.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh has demonstrated time and time again that he understands the critical intersection of good jobs and a clean and equitable economy. He comes from a union background and a union town, and has been a champion for the rights of working people throughout his career as a union leader and a Mayor. As Mayor, Walsh has shown that he not only makes ambitious commitments to his residents, he follows those up with meaningful policies that create jobs, strengthen equity, and address climate change. Under his leadership, the City of Boston has been voted a top city on the City Clean Energy Scorecard, and has already developed a framework for reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 that emphasizes expanding workforce development programs to ensure jobs in the clean economy are good-paying union jobs. During his tenure, he established Boston's first Office of Workforce Development and Office of Financial Empowerment and convened a Minimum Wage Task Force to further the movement for a \$15/hour minimum wage.

As the new administration builds on its pro-union, pro-worker agenda to Build Back Better, Marty Walsh will be an essential asset at the Department of Labor to move this agenda forward in a way that creates and sustains good jobs, lifts up communities and workers, and builds a more just, equitable and cleaner economy.

Mayor Walsh is the right person for this job, with support from both the labor and environmental communities. We urge you to swiftly confirm this nominee.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Teachers  
BlueGreen Alliance  
Environmental Defense Fund  
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers  
League of Conservation Voters  
Natural Resources Defense Fund  
National Wildlife Federation  
Service Employees International Union  
United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters  
United Steelworkers Union  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Utility Workers Union of America