



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

April 27, 2023

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 Bernie Sanders
Chairman, Senate Committee on
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
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 Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

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 Julie Su to be the next Secretary of Labor.

Su has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to ensuring that all working people are treated with dignity and are able to enjoy basic protections in the workplace. As the deputy secretary of labor, Su worked side-by-side with former Secretary Marty Walsh to advance the vision of a strong, resilient, and inclusive economy with worker well-being at its center. Su has played a leading role in the development of President Biden's Good Jobs Initiative, which has helped to improve job standards in government contracting and grant making and ensuring that the opportunities presented by once-in-a-generation infrastructure investments are broadly shared. Under Su's leadership as deputy secretary, the department has acted to raise wages and improve conditions for workers by raising the minimum wage for federal contractors, strengthening protections for tipped workers, and proposing that more workers be protected as employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act – actions that expand opportunity for all while advancing equity for groups disproportionately employed in those sectors.

A comprehensive approach to tackling our economic issues must 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. The inequalities in the labor market were exacerbated by the economic crisis sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic. The work of the Department of Labor is critical to

supporting working people in the aftermath of that crisis and to addressing these historic inequities and building a clean and inclusive economy that works for all. Julie Su has the experience to address these intersecting crises while working side-by-side with businesses to help them meet industry demand for skilled workers. The American people deserve a representative at the Department of Labor that is going to fight for them, and one that recognizes that Americans don't have to choose between a good job and a clean environment – or between health and a strong economy. They can and must have both.

Julie Su 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. We urge you to swiftly confirm this nominee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Walsh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jason Walsh
Executive Director
BlueGreen Alliance