



SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

January 28, 2025

The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA) is supported by more than 3,500 construction firms engaged in industrial, commercial, residential, architectural and specialty sheet metal and air conditioning construction throughout the United States. **On behalf of our membership, SMACNA would like to again voice our support for an expedited nomination process and confirmation of Representative Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R-OR-5) to serve as the 30th Secretary of Labor** of the U.S. Department of Labor. In her role as a Member of Congress, Rep. Chavez-DeRemer effectively served her congressional district with a bipartisan, fair and balanced manner, earning widespread and bipartisan support for her job creating initiatives, ideas and legislation. Her nomination is a perfect example of appointing a person who knows the long list of often complex labor-management issues at DOL and has a balanced policy view that all sides respect. From years of experience, our firms in OR and across the nation believe she will serve in the Trump Administration's advocating for labor – management cooperation and enforcement of the nation's labor standards and procurement laws. We have especially appreciated her support during her term in Congress for positive reforms the Davis-Bacon Act, Registered Apprenticeship programs (RAPs), and other workplace standards important to the leading firms in the construction industry.

Secretary Nominee Chavez-DeRemer has often spoken of the need to reform certain workforce development rules to better reflect the intent of enacted statutes and to reform and expand registered apprenticeship opportunities. These potential improvements could be instrumental to meet and address the skilled workforce shortage crisis. In addition, she has supported an emphasis on enforcing long-established workplace laws routinely followed by scrupulous and law-abiding contractors and most small businesses. While many unscrupulous businesses and their advocates may see enforcement of the nation's labor laws as controversial, we do not. To do any less than enforce workforce and workplace rules provides an anticompetitive advantage for employers refusing to follow basic employment, wage, and hour standards and many other training and health and safety rules.

During her tenure as Mayor, Rep. DeRemer was widely viewed by our members as a respected, open and fair advocate of local development and skilled workforce expansion. She has always been a valued bridge between labor and employers where she strived to connect hopeful, career-oriented workers with apprenticeships and high skilled, well-paying skilled construction trades jobs. Since her arrival in Congress, Rep. De-Remer consistently met with, worked with, and listened to both employers and employees to advocate for reasonable job creation and management policies. This experience will be invaluable as the Department continues implementing important contracting laws, such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, CHIPS and Science Act, and Inflation Reduction Act, each with important job training incentives. Each offers pathways to strengthen the "high road" contracting industry and create far more high-quality skilled construction careers, careers that build greater family and community economic wealth.



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SMACNA's membership includes thousands of firms employing hundreds of thousands of highly skilled trades craftspeople specializing in large projects involving energy saving performance contracting, facility energy management and residential, commercial, public, and industrial energy system service, construction, and efficient retrofits. Based upon our extensive experience working with the nominee, and US Department of Labor officials for many decades, we urge you to take swift action and confirm Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer' as Secretary of Labor to advocate and serve the nation's workforce, employers as well as their workplaces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanley E. Kolbe, Jr." in a cursive script.

Stanley E. Kolbe, Jr.
Executive Director, Government and Political Affairs
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