

**STATEMENT OF JESSICA LOOMAN  
NOMINEE FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION  
ADMINISTRATOR  
CONFIRMATION HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH,  
EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS**

Thank you, Chair Murray, Ranking Member Burr, and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to appear before you today and thank you to Senator Smith for that kind introduction. I also want to thank my husband Jason and my sons Jack and Joshua, who are with me here today, for their encouragement and support.

I'm honored and grateful for President Biden, Vice President Harris, and Secretary Walsh's faith in me, and I appreciate your consideration of my nomination to serve as Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor.

As Senator Smith shared, my family and I are from St. Paul, Minnesota and since January of 2021, I have served as the Deputy Administrator for the Wage and Hour Division here in Washington.

I am proud that every day, I get to wake up and do my best to help 148 million workers and 10 million employers across this country.

I, like many of you, was inspired by my parents to go into public service. My mother, who passed away in 1999, was active in our community. She worked for the Red Cross and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and she was passionate about making sure that everyone, and especially women, voted. My dad, who was a locomotive engineer and union steward when I was little, also served in Ohio state government. My dad especially taught me that hard work and workers are the foundation of our society, our economy, and our community. He's pretty proud of me right now.

Last year, I came to the Wage and Hour Division after two years as the Executive Director of the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council, which represents over 70,000 union construction workers. In that role, I partnered with employers to advocate for more construction investment. I worked to expand construction career pathways and increase the numbers of women and people of color in the Minnesota construction industry.

In 2017, I was appointed as the Commissioner of the Minnesota Commerce Department where I worked with the energy, finance, and insurance industries to expand investments in domestic energy production, focus on consumer protections, and address insurance fraud.

And as the Deputy Commissioner at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, I oversaw the operations of the agency as well as labor standards, construction codes, and apprenticeship programs. I was proud to oversee some of the most impactful efforts to streamline licensing processing and increase opportunities to expand registered apprenticeships to healthcare, agriculture, and IT.

Throughout my work with Minnesota Building Trades and my time with the Minnesota Departments of Commerce and Labor, I worked on issues of critical importance to businesses and workers. In each of these roles, I made sure to listen to and learn from businesses, workers, and government. I have consistently found that listening to all points of view has made me a better leader too.

My parents, mentors, and colleagues have all inspired me to work hard to collaborate, build consensus, and develop opportunities and create economic security for working people across our country. And I have worked with employers to do just that. Nowhere is this better illustrated than in the construction industry where I have worked in different capacities for over half of my career. Because building trades workers work when their construction contractor employers have projects, it is critical that labor and management partner together to advocate for infrastructure investment, to ensure the safety of construction workers, and to expand diversity and inclusion in the industry.

I bring those same lessons to my work in state, and now, federal government. As Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, I prioritized providing regulatory certainty for the financial, energy, and insurance industries. At the Minnesota Department of Labor, I worked closely with the construction, manufacturing, and healthcare industries to help them meet their workforce needs and their labor standards responsibilities. I recognize that helping employers understand the law is a key part of helping businesses, consumers, and working families thrive in our economy.

I know that most employers want to understand and comply with the law. And to support responsible employers and all working people, we must focus on protecting the most vulnerable among us—because it hurts both workers and responsible employers when workers become victims of wage theft, retaliation, or exploitation. In America, today, we are seeing workers who are not getting paid the minimum wages and overtime they have earned and children working in dangerous occupations. And we know that workers are still fired, threatened, or worse because they ask to be paid for their work. I am committed to helping to prevent violations from happening through outreach, education, and compliance assistance, and to ensuring that violations that do occur are remedied and workers are made whole.

It is an honor to be nominated to be the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the US Department of Labor. And it would be a privilege to serve in this role if I am confirmed. Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I look forward to your questions.