

January 31, 2023

Chair McEwen, Ranking Member Dornink and Members of the Senate Labor Committee:

On behalf of the 29,000 members and family members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Minnesota and North Dakota, I am writing to express our strong support for the confirmation of Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach to lead the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI).

DLI serves a vital role in protecting the health, safety and well-being of our members. Our members depend on the Department to maintain safe workplaces, uphold robust apprenticeship standards, educate workers about their rights and provide prompt and thorough investigations of workplace injuries and exploitation.

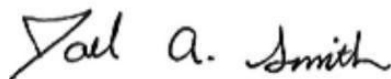
Commissioner Blissenbach has consistently proven to be an effective leader. She has extensive experience advocating for workplace safety and employee rights through her work as an attorney for Education Minnesota. Commissioner Blissenbach has been a champion for labor standards enforcement and a strong advocate for Minnesota's many registered apprenticeship programs during her time at the DLI. She has a deep understanding of the Department's goals, objectives and programs.

Since starting at the DLI in 2019, Commissioner Blissenbach has maintained a commitment to hear our concerns. She is a problem solver that carefully listens and charts a clear plan of action to address issues facing working Minnesotans. She actively engaged workers to better understand the evolving health and safety threats during the COVID-19 pandemic, maintaining safe workplaces under unprecedented conditions. Commissioner Blissenbach has also effectively led the implementation and enforcement of Minnesota's critical new wage theft law.

Commissioner Blissenbach has done excellent work throughout her time at the DLI. We cannot think of a more qualified candidate for this position. We appreciate the opportunity to express our strong support and urge Senators to act promptly on their confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Joel Smith
President and Business Manager
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota