

January 24, 2023

Senator Jen McEwen, Chair
Senate Labor Committee
3217 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Honorable Chair McEwen and Members of the Senate Labor Committee:

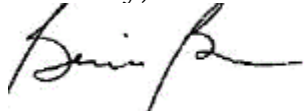
On behalf of the more than 300,000 working people who belong to Minnesota AFL-CIO affiliated unions, we're writing in support of Nicole Blissenbach's confirmation as Commissioner of Labor & Industry.

Minnesota is a longtime leader in strong labor standards that protect workers both physically and financially. The Department of Labor & Industry requires leadership with a deep understanding of our state's labor laws and commitment to enforcement. Commissioner Blissenbach and the team she has assembled exemplify both these requirements.

Since her arrival in 2019 as an assistant deputy and now commissioner, the Department has faced multiple challenges and opportunities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she helped the department ensure essential workers were as protected as possible. As Minnesota adopted the strongest wage theft law in the nation, she successfully directed its implementation and enforcement.

Nicole Blissenbach has spent her career dedicated to our state's labor laws. Working Minnesotans are fortunate to have her leading the Department of Labor & Industry. We urge you to let her continue serving our state with a positive confirmation vote.

Sincerely,



Bernie Burnham
President



Brad Lehto
Secretary-Treasurer