

May 4, 2023

The Honorable Susan Collins
U.S. Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Angus King
U.S. Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C 20510

Dear Senators Collins and King:

On behalf of the undersigned Maine business organizations, we respectfully ask you to oppose the nomination of Julie Su to be Secretary of Labor.

Based on Ms. Su's record in public service, we are deeply concerned about the potential of her leadership of the U.S. Department of Labor, a critical agency that regulates employers and employees in Maine. During her time as Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, Ms. Su supported a devastating law known as A.B. 5 that threatens the livelihood of independent entrepreneurs and franchisees. Additionally, as Deputy Secretary of Labor, Ms. Su has supported state legislation (A.B. 257) to empower an unelected board of government appointees to dictate the wages and working conditions of independently owned restaurants in California. Although California voters overturned large parts of A.B. 5, we are concerned that Ms. Su would seek to nationalize California's harmful policies, harming independent workers that play a critical role in the Maine workforce.

Ms. Su has also advocated for the elimination of the tipped minimum wage. Thousands of restaurant workers in Maine have successfully rallied to preserve the tipping system, which provides them with hourly income far above the minimum wage. Most recently in Portland, ME, a coalition of restaurant workers and small businesses defeated by 20 points a ballot measure to eliminate that city's tipped wage. Ms. Su's position is out of sync with the best interests of the very workers she is supposed to represent.

Again, we are alarmed that Ms. Su's anti-small business record shows that she will likely stretch the law, rather than enforce the law, as Labor Secretary in a manner that would shutter small businesses and increase costs for consumers, especially as the economy continues to struggle. According to the Small Business Administration, Maine is home to over 151,000 small businesses, employing 56.3% of the state's workforce. Time and time again, you have stood up for these small employers that keep our state's economy flourishing, and we respectfully ask you to do so again by opposing the nomination of Julie Su to be Secretary of Labor.

Sincerely,

Associated Builders and Contractors Maine
HospitalityMaine
Maine Franchise Action Network
Maine Motor Transport Association
Retail Association of Maine