



March 21, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the nation's retail industry, I write to share the National Retail Federation's strong support for the nomination of Alexander Acosta to be the next Secretary of Labor.

NRF is the world's largest retail trade association, representing discount and department stores, home goods and specialty stores, Main Street merchants, grocers, wholesalers, chain restaurants and Internet retailers from the United States and more than 45 countries. Retail is the nation's largest private sector employer, supporting one in four U.S. jobs – 42 million working Americans. Contributing \$2.6 trillion to annual GDP, retail is a daily barometer for the nation's economy.

Over the past eight years, the retail industry and employers across the country have faced a crushing regulatory burden driven by ideological whims rather than economic realities. The previous Department of Labor's sweeping actions on federal overtime rules, joint employer relationships, and many other issues have created immense uncertainty for employers and stifled economic growth. Both job creators and employees will benefit from a more balanced approach to workforce policies and a Secretary of Labor who puts the needs of American businesses and workers before partisan politics.

Mr. Acosta's diverse experiences in both public service and the private sector position him well to be an effective and pragmatic leader at the Department of Labor. The new Labor Secretary will play a critical role in implementing the President's regulatory reform Executive Orders, and NRF looks forward to working with Mr. Acosta once confirmed on a pro-growth agenda that supports innovation, investments in the workforce, and American competitiveness.

Given Mr. Acosta previously has been confirmed by the Senate on three occasions with bipartisan support, NRF urges members of this Committee and the Senate to support the nominee and move towards confirmation without delay.

Sincerely,

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations