



February 13, 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 Andrew Puzder to be the next Secretary of Labor. Mr. Puzder has a proven record as a job creator and a thorough understanding of the challenges facing businesses and the workforce alike.

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. Puzder's decades of real-world experience in the private sector, including as CEO of CKE Restaurants, uniquely position him to be an effective leader at the Labor Department. He understands first-hand the challenges faced by the retail and restaurant industries and the negative impacts of excessive regulation on employers' abilities to expand and continue to invest in their workforces. As Secretary of Labor, the National Retail Federation is confident that Mr. Puzder will work with stakeholders on a pro-growth agenda that supports innovation, investments in the workforce, and American competitiveness.

We look forward to working with Committee members and the new Secretary on our key workforce priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David French'.

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations

cc: Members of the United States Senate