



April 16, 2013

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the more than 2.1 million members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), I urge swift confirmation of Thomas Perez as the next Secretary of Labor. His outstanding career in public service and demonstrated commitment to enforcing our nation's labor laws makes him supremely qualified to ensure the well-being of our nation's workforce as the next Secretary of Labor.

During his time leading the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department, Mr. Perez proved both his pragmatic approach to problem-solving and his dedication to ensuring opportunities for all Americans. Mr. Perez led efforts to create the Fair Lending Unit within the Civil Rights Division, a much needed response to the housing crisis, holding brokers who practiced predatory lending accountable for their role in the foreclosure crisis that has plagued low-income and minority communities across this nation. Mr. Perez also took critical steps to protect the civil and voting rights of minority communities and of all Americans.

Mr. Perez has a strong record of enforcing labor laws, particularly during his time as Labor Secretary in Maryland. To make sure Marylanders were paid a fair wage for their work, Mr. Perez brought together business and labor leaders to address the problem of improperly classifying workers as independent contractors instead of employees. Mr. Perez also took important steps to enforce wage protection laws and helped improve the efficient operations of the Department.

The next Secretary of Labor must ensure the voices of working families are heard and should bring perspective on the needs of employees and job seekers to policymaking. Based on his distinguished career, we are confident that as Secretary of Labor, Mr. Perez will promote the welfare of wage earners, job seekers and retirees; improve working conditions and workplace safety; advance opportunities for employment; and ensure work-related benefits and rights.

We ask that you move quickly to confirm Mr. Perez to serve as the next Secretary of Labor. If you have any questions, contact Steph Sterling, Legislative Director, at [steph.sterling@seiu.org](mailto:steph.sterling@seiu.org) or 202-730-7232.

Sincerely,

Mary Kay Henry  
International President

MKH:SS:gmb  
opeiu#2  
afl-cio, clc

MARY KAY HENRY  
International President

ELISEO MEDINA  
International Secretary-Treasurer

KIRK ADAMS  
Executive Vice President

MICHAEL P. FISHMAN  
Executive Vice President

GERRY HUDSON  
Executive Vice President

EILEEN KIRLIN  
Executive Vice President

VALARIE LONG  
Executive Vice President

TOM WOODRUFF  
Executive Vice President

SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION  
CTW, CLC

1800 Massachusetts Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

202.730.7000  
TDD:202.730.7481  
[www.SEIU.org](http://www.SEIU.org)