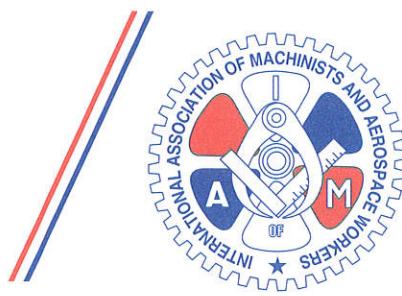


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

February 15, 2017

Dear Senator,

**I write to express our strong opposition to the nomination of fast food CEO Andrew Puzder as Secretary of Labor.** The Trump administration should immediately withdraw the nomination of perhaps the most anti-worker nominee ever, or publicly acknowledge the hypocrisy of its claim of wanting to help the America worker.

The Secretary of Labor has many responsibilities, including the development of the human capital, through job training and apprenticeships, necessary for our Nation to compete globally. Among other duties, the Secretary oversees the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Office of Disability Employment Policy, the Veterans' Employment and Training Service, the Wage and Hour Division, and the Bureau of International Labor Affairs. In addition, the Secretary serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and plays an important role in ensuring the retirement security of working Americans. At times, the Secretary must step in and help mediate disputes between companies and unions. In essence, the Secretary's primary responsibility is the development and welfare of the American worker. Unfortunately, few nominees have been so unqualified and had so little regard for workers as Mr. Puzder.

Mr. Puzder, who would prefer to replace workers with robots, has shown disdain for important workplace protections that, as Labor Secretary, he would be responsible for enforcing. Labor Department data shows wage violations in approximately 60 percent of his restaurants, and sexual harassment of women in his restaurants runs significantly higher than the industry average. After his nomination was announced, it was revealed that he had not bothered to pay the payroll taxes for an undocumented worker that he employed. While Mr. Puzder has stated that workers have "too many protections," these regulations can have life and death consequences. OSHA, an agency that comes under the Labor Secretary's purview, has reported that 4,836 workers died on the job in 2015. Given Mr. Puzder's statements, we are very concerned that the number workplace fatalities would only go up if he were to be confirmed as Labor Secretary.

While he makes millions as a CEO, Mr Puzder has fought against raising the minimum wage and the expansion of overtime coverage for workers in "supervisory" positions who are often forced to work for free, a disgraceful practice prevalent in the fast food industry. Many of his workers make so little that they are dependent on taxpayer funded public assistance programs to survive.

Mr. Puzder's antiworker views are best expressed in his own words when he described his employees as "the best of the worst." Such elitist sentiments are clearly inappropriate for a cabinet nominee to the Labor Department, which, historically, has embraced the fundamental

American value of economic opportunity for all of our citizens no matter their standing. Mr. Puzder's only qualification for a cabinet position appears to be the over \$300,000 in campaign contributions that he and his wife made in the last election.

If confirmed, Mr. Puzder would work to wipe out a century of progress for American workers. I urge you, in the strongest term possible, to reject this horribly unqualified nominee as our Secretary of Labor.

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (202) 420-5902.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Martinez, Jr." with a small circle above the 'i' in "Jr.".

Robert Martinez, Jr.  
International President