

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

January 30, 2017

RE: Nomination of Andrew Puzder as Secretary of Labor

Dear Senators:

Our organizations urge you to oppose the nomination of Andrew Puzder as Secretary of Labor. This nomination represents another in a string of Trump administration appointments that betrays the President-elect's promise to improve the lives of working people.

As CEO of CKE Restaurants, which operates Carl's Jr. and Hardee's, Puzder's nomination to an agency charged with protecting working people is rife with conflicts of interest. Puzder's company has faced numerous Department of Labor violations for failing to pay the minimum wage or overtime: Sixty percent of inspections of Carl's Jr. and Hardee's restaurants found labor law violations and Puzder has opposed both raising the minimum wage and enforcement of overtime rules and mandatory sick leave. Puzder's confirmation would ensure that the interests of the fast food industry—and its large meat and food industry suppliers—would prevail over the needs of hard-working people in the food system who face some of the highest rates of food insecurity due to low wages and poor working conditions.

Contrary to what Puzder and other corporate leaders at the National Restaurant Association say about good working conditions in the restaurant sector, the majority of restaurant workers are women and people of color, making as little as \$2.13 per hour and rely on tips to survive. These workers face disproportionate rates of poverty, discrimination, and sexual harassment and deserve a Labor Secretary who believes that, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "All labor has dignity." Instead, with the National Restaurant Association's champion heading the Department of Labor, workers will have to rely on vocal opponents of labor regulations to protect their basic workplace rights.

On behalf of the many people and groups who are working for a better food system that provides nutritious food and livable wages and treats the land, farmers, and animals with respect, we the undersigned urge you to oppose the nomination of Andrew Puzder to Labor Secretary.

Puzder would be yet one more nominee working for the interests of big business over the interests of working people.

Signed,

ActionAid USA

African American Cultural Center (Us)

Agricultural Justice Project

Alliance for Fair Food

Beyond Pesticides

Black Community, Clergy and Labor Alliance (BCCLA)

Black Urban Growers

Brandworkers

Brighter Green

California Institute for Rural Studies

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Food Safety

Center for Science in the Public Interest

Center for Urban Education for Sustainable Agriculture

Climate Justice Alliance

Coalition of Immokalee Workers

CoFED

Common Ground Community

Community Alliance for Global Justice

Community Food and Justice Coalition

Compassion in World Farming

Corporate Accountability International

Dakota Resource Council

Domestic Fair Trade Association

Earthjustice

El Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas, The Farmworkers' Support Committee

Family Farm Defenders

Farm Forward

Farmworker Association of Florida

Farmworker Justice

Food & Water Watch

Food Chain Workers Alliance

Food Democracy Now!

Food Empowerment Project

Food First

Food Shift

Food Tank

Foodstand

Foundation Earth

Friends of the Earth

GMO Inside

Grassroots Gardens WNY

Greater Grand Rapids Food Systems Council

Green America

HEAL Food Alliance

Health & Medicine Policy Research Group

Health Care Without Harm	New York
Idle No More Duluth	Northwest Arkansas Workers Justice Center
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy	Nutiva
International Labor Rights Forum	Organic Consumers Association
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement	Other Worlds
Just Food	People's Climate Movement NY
Land Stewardship Project	People's Grocery
Laundry Workers Center	Pesticide Action Network
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Teachers College, Columbia University	Phat Beets Produce
Lucid Food	Pioneer Valley Workers Center
Midwest Pesticide Action Center	Real Food Challenge
MomsRising.org	Real Food for Kids
National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice	Real Food Media
National Black Food & Justice Alliance	ROC United
National Family Farm Coalition	RootDown LA
National Young Farmers Coalition	Roots of Change
Natural Resources Defense Council	Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural
NC Environmental Justice Network	Sacramento Food Policy Council
New Mexico Public Health Association	Slow Food California
Ninjas for Health	Slow Food Chicago
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment	Slow Food USA
Northeast Organic Farming Association of	Small Planet Institute
	Soil Generation
	South Agassiz Resource Council

Southern Christian Leadership Conference  
of Southern California

Springfield Food Policy Council

Student/Farmworker Alliance

Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville (SAL)

Toxic Taters

Treasure Valley Food Coalition

Union of Concerned Scientists

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

US Food Sovereignty Alliance

Warehouse Worker Resource Center

Warehouse Workers for Justice

WhyHunger

Workers' Center of Central New York

Young Workers United