

January 26, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chairman
The Honorable Roger Wicker, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

On behalf of the U.S. equipment manufacturing industry and the companies that make up the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, we respectfully urge the confirmation of the Honorable Gina Raimondo to serve as United States Secretary of Commerce.

Equipment manufacturers are proud to support 2.8 million family-sustaining jobs – one in eight manufacturing jobs in the United States – that contribute \$288 billion to the nation's GDP and serve as a key driver of the American economy.

Governor Raimondo's distinguished career as the 75th Governor of Rhode Island, successful businesswoman, and strong advocate for government-industry collaboration will serve her well as she leads the Department of Commerce during America's economic recovery. As a strong supporter of the manufacturing sector, she understands the policies that will improve equipment manufacturers' competitiveness and ability to reach new customers abroad to create more American jobs and greater prosperity for our nation. We are confident that Governor Raimondo will provide the leadership needed to grow the economy, strengthen our industry, and improve the lives of all Americans.

Please feel free to call on us to expand upon our rationale for supporting the nomination of Governor Raimondo. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Dennis Slater
President
Association of Equipment Manufacturers

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation