



July 15, 2026

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chairman
Senate HELP Committee
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee
615 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Sanders:

On behalf of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), I am pleased to express our enthusiastic support for the nomination of Keith Sonderling to serve as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

SEMA's more than **7,000 member companies** make up the core of the specialty automotive aftermarket, which has an annual economic impact of **\$337 billion** and employs more than **1.3 million Americans** in meaningful careers that showcase the best of our nation's innovation and engineering ingenuity. SEMA members manufacture, sell, distribute, and install specialty automotive products and accessories that help automotive enthusiasts enhance the performance, safety, comfort, and look of their personal vehicles – everything from classic cars, trucks, off-road vehicles, race cars, and more.

It is vital that the individual who leads DOL be someone who will champion career pathways that support a diverse array of industries, engage with the private sector to train our nation's evolving workforce, and can connect the dots between the activities that enhance Americans' lives and the robust, job-creating industries that support them. **Keith Sonderling is that individual.**

Mr. Sonderling throughout his tenure as a public servant has exhibited a deep understanding of labor and employment policy, and has demonstrated the leadership necessary to oversee one of the federal government's most important agencies.

Mr. Sonderling's experience, commitment to public service, and proven leadership make him well qualified to serve as Secretary of Labor. SEMA respectfully urges the Committee to favorably report

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his nomination and encourage the Senate to confirm him expeditiously.

His experience as Acting Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and Acting Administrator of the Wage and Hour has provided him with a comprehensive understanding of DOL's mission and operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KB' or 'KBC' with a stylized flourish.

Karen Bailey-Chapman

Senior Vice President, Public and Government Affairs