



October 6, 2015

Honorable Grace Meng
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1589

RE: H.R. 3384: The Quiet Communities Act of 2015

Via email:

Dear Representative Meng:

On behalf of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), I am pleased to offer our support for the “Quiet Communities Act of 2015” (H.R. 3384) and your efforts to reestablish and reauthorize funding for the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Office of Noise Abatement and Control.

The health and welfare of our citizens necessitates that the Environmental Protection Agency, the federal agency responsible for the protection of human health and the environment, once again assume a lead role in combating noise pollution. A 2014 study estimated that over 104 million individuals in the U.S. had annual noise exposures at a level that increased their risk of noise induced hearing loss and other noise-related health effects. Mounting evidence connects noise exposures to a variety of health effects including cardiovascular disease, sleep disturbance, stress, general annoyance, and impaired learning and concentration. Your efforts support EPA’s purpose to ensure that all Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn, and work.

AIHA appreciates the efforts of all of the sponsors of H.R. 3384 to improve the lives of millions of Americans through the reestablishment of the Office of Noise Abatement and Control. The 1972 Noise Control Act addressed a need for a federal noise emission standard for products distributed in commerce. However, the Office of Noise Abatement and Control has not been funded since 1982, and in the absence of federal standards, manufacturers are burdened with attempting to meet a patchwork of state and local regulations. Your proposed bill to re-establish the Office of Noise Abatement and Control with funding makes sense.

Your bill will also provide important support for the other two key objectives of the 1972 Noise Control Act:

- Establishing a means for effective coordination of Federal research and activities in noise control and
- Providing information to the public regarding the noise emission and reduction characteristics of consumer products.

AIHA is hopeful that when the Office of Noise Abatement and Control is reauthorized and funded that the Office also coordinates efforts with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to address noise pollution, including noise exposure and hearing protection issues.

AIHA is one of the largest international associations serving the needs of occupational and environmental health and safety professionals practicing industrial hygiene in industry, government, labor, academic institutions and independent organizations. The AIHA mission is to promote healthy and safe environments by advancing the science, principles, practice and value of industrial and occupational hygiene. AIHA is not only committed to protecting and improving worker health, but the health and well-being of all people in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration and your leadership on this important issue. If you require further information or would like to discuss these matters in greater detail, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. H. Anna".

Daniel H. Anna, PhD, CIH, CSP
AIHA President

cc: AIHA Board of Directors
Chairman, AIHA Noise Committee
Peter O'Neil, AIHA Executive Director
Aaron Trippler, AIHA Director Government Affairs