March 29, 2007

Honorable Robert E. Andrews  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3001  

Via e-mail: rob.andrews@mail.house.gov rapublic@mail.house.gov

Dear Representative Andrews:

On behalf of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), I am pleased to offer our support for your legislation, H.R. 1517, the “Fairness for State and Local Workers Act”, to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act to provide coverage under the Act for employees of State and local governments.

Supporting this legislation is not a difficult decision for AIHA and AIHA has supported its enactment each time it has been introduced. AIHA believes that all workers, regardless of their employer, should be provided quality health and safety workplace protection. We applaud your efforts to again address this concern through your legislation.

AIHA is also hopeful that as H.R. 1517 moves through the legislative process, Congress will ensure OSHA, States and local governments that adequate resources for training, compliance assistance, and other forms of workplace health and safety education will be allocated to meet OSHA compliance requirements. While expansion of health and safety protection is important, AIHA is just as concerned that resources expended by OSHA, States and local governments are for citizen services, and that those services are not compromised to provide worker health and safety protections. Both should be feasible if adequate resources are allocated.

Founded in 1939, the American Industrial Hygiene Association is the premier association of occupational and environmental health and safety professionals. AIHA’s 11,600 members play a crucial role on the front line of worker health and safety every day. Members represent a cross-section of industry, private business, labor, academia, and government. With such a responsibility, our members rely heavily on public policy that addresses ways to improve the health and safety of workers and others.
If AIHA can provide any further information or assistance to you please contact Aaron Trippler, AIHA director of government affairs at our national headquarters.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank M Renshaw, PhD, CIH, CSP
President

cc: AIHA Board of Directors
    Steven Davis, AIHA Executive Director
    Aaron Trippler, AIHA Director, Government Affairs