



August 11, 2011

Allan D. Gilmour
Office of the President
Wayne State University
656 W. Kirby
4200 Faculty/Admin Building
Detroit, MI 48202

Via email: Office of the President - Carol.Baldwin@wayne.edu
Board of Governors - aq1562@wayne.edu

Dear President Gilmour:

On behalf of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), I am writing to express our concern about a decision to recommend closure of the Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences (OEHS) Program at Wayne State University. This recommendation has been made by Dean Lloyd Young. AIHA was made aware of this plan through our Michigan members and the Michigan Industrial Hygiene Society.

AIHA agrees with our Michigan members that such an action would be detrimental to the occupational safety and health community and employees and employers in the State of Michigan. The OEHS program at Wayne State University is one of the top programs in the country, producing some of the best and brightest professionals in the field.

It is our understanding that the OEHS program is cost neutral with respect to tuition, fees and state capitation covering costs. This fact alone should raise questions as to why such a recommendation is being considered.

The careers within the OEHS program are necessary in the rebuilding of the Michigan economy. Closing this program would deny hundreds of students the chance of a great career and the opportunity to protect the lives and wellbeing of workers and the public. In addition, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has drawn on this program for many years as a source of competent well-trained professionals to perform health and safety audits in the workplace and as health and safety managers, trainers and consultants.

AIHA hopes you and the Board of Governors consider the importance of the program to the community, Michigan business, and Michigan workers. We urge you and the Board of Governors to continue this program and oppose its closure.

AIHA is the premier association serving the needs of professionals involved in occupational and environmental health and safety practicing industrial hygiene in industry, government, labor, academic institutions and independent organizations. The AIHA mission is to promote healthy and safe working environments by advancing the science, principles, practice, and value of industrial hygiene. A healthy workforce is essential to the success of American industry, our economic recovery, and our future position in the global economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth L. Pullen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elizabeth L. Pullen, CIH
AIHA President

cc: Board of Governors
Michigan Industrial Hygiene Society
Peter O'Neil, AIHA Executive Director