



*Your Essential
Connection*

October 3, 2005

The Honorable Michael Enzi
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-5004

Dear Senator Enzi:

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), the premier association of occupational and environmental health and safety professionals, wishes to take this opportunity to comment on the confirmation of a new Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). AIHA, through its 12,000 members, has more than 60 years of commitment to the protection of workers, their community and the environment.

AIHA is pleased to offer our endorsement of Mr. Edwin Foulke, Jr. for the position as Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA.

AIHA believes Mr. Foulke is committed to the proposition that OSHA can serve both the objectives of protecting the worker and helping businesses to be profitable – that these objectives are complementary. We also feel he fully understands the overlap and the interaction between the issues of the workplace, the environment and the community.

Mr. Foulke is well known within the occupational health and safety community because of his service on the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, where he served from 1990 to 1995; and served as Chairman of the Commission from 1990 to 1994. We are also aware that Mr. Foulke is well respected within the business community and that those representing labor feel he has been “someone who would reach out to different groups”.

His experience with all sectors, including industry and labor, provides essential background and understanding of health and safety issues from many perspectives. We believe the confirmation of Mr. Foulke would assure that worker health and safety would be expertly and effectively implemented. We are also pleased to note Mr. Foulke’s past support for efforts to update Permissible Exposure Limits within OSHA, a view shared by both labor and industry.

AIHA

*Your Essential Connection:
Advancing Occupational and Environmental Health
and Safety Globally*

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The only reservation AIHA might have to this confirmation would be the concern that Mr. Foulke does not bring any “front-line” health and safety experience to the position. As some have said, “the job of OSHA assistant secretary is different from being on the commission”. We are hopeful that Mr. Foulke will reach out to all sectors to better understand the role that OSHA must fulfill if we are to reduce fatalities, injury and illness in the workplace.

If AIHA can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R M Buchan", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Roy M. Buchan, Dr.PH., CIH
President

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
AIHA Board of Directors
Steven Davis, AIHA Executive Director