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January 12, 2005

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Labor
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Via E-Mail: Law-Steven@dol.gov

Dear Secretary Chao:

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), the premier association of occupational and environmental health and safety professionals, wishes to take this opportunity to provide input in the selection process for the next Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health (MSHA). AIHA, through its 12,000 members, has a 65-year history of commitment to the protection of workers, their community, and the environment.

As the Bush Administration moves forward in selecting a nominee for the position of Assistant Secretary of Labor for MSHA, AIHA would like to offer our strong support for the nomination and appointment of Mr. John R Caylor.

Mr. Caylor is currently Vice President of Safety and Industrial Hygiene for Crescent Technology, Inc. Mr. Caylor is a senior level results-oriented safety management and training executive with over 30 years experience in all aspects of safety management, management training, and industrial hygiene management in the mining sector. Mr. Caylor also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for MSHA from October 2001 until February of 2004.

Mr. Caylor has extensive experience in protecting workers in the mining sector. Regulatory reviews, major accident investigations, management training, industrial hygiene management and consulting are some of his previous responsibilities that would be advantageous as Assistant Secretary of Labor for MSHA.

However, even more important to the Administration should be the fact that Mr. Caylor meets the qualifications that AIHA feels should be met for any individual appointed to lead MSHA:

AIHA

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Advancing Occupational and Environmental Health
and Safety Globally*

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- A lifelong commitment to health and safety, preferably a health and safety professional;
- Comprehensive academic training in occupational health and safety;
- At least 15 years of technical experience in occupational health and safety;
- Proven management experience in implementing health and safety programs; and
- The vision and ability to build coalitions and consensus among diverse groups to effectively promote a health and safety agenda accepted by all.

AIHA believes Mr. Caylor's view of MSHA is similar to that of AIHA members serving on the front line of occupational health and safety – MSHA's mission remains important, but we must all work to strengthen the agency's effectiveness. These changes involve comprehensive, integrated efforts to focus the agency's relationships and resources on promoting health and safety in mining.

We recognize many factors will come into play in the final selection of the successful candidate. The worker health and safety agenda is a long one and the Assistant Secretary must be an individual able to carry out one of the major themes of the Bush Administration, that being an ability to bring diverse viewpoints together.

Mr. Caylor is highly respected within the mine health and safety community. His experience with all sectors provides essential background and understanding of mine health and safety issues. We believe the appointment of Mr. Caylor to the position of Assistant Secretary of Labor for MSHA would assure that mine worker health and safety would be expertly and effectively implemented.

If AIHA or I can be of any assistance to you in your deliberations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

(signature)

Donna M Doganiero

Donna M. Doganiero, CIH
President

cc: Ed Moy/Presidential Personnel Office
John R Caylor
AIHA Board of Directors
Steven Davis, AIHA Executive Director