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Ted Wackler
Deputy Chief of Staff and Assistant Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President

AIHA Comments on National Strategic Plan for Advanced Manufacturing

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Dear Mr. Wackler:

The American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA) appreciates the opportunity to comment upon the draft National Strategic Plan for Advanced Manufacturing. As you review our comments and contemplate how we might be of service, please keep in mind that AIHA and our members have a reach that extends to millions of people, and we have solid credibility that is built from 79 years of service to the occupational and environmental health and safety community. Specifically, AIHA has 8,500 members who represent a cross-section of industry, private business, labor, government, and academia. We maintain 68 active US Local Sections, more than 50 volunteer groups, and have partnership agreements with governmental and nongovernmental organizations representing the full spectrum of worker health and safety vocations. Finally, we have several award-winning publications, a strong social media presence, and host conferences where thought leaders from a variety of industries gather to share new information and answer practical questions on specialized health and safety topics.

Recommendation from AIHA's Nanotechnology Working Group: Include Worker Health and Safety in the National Strategic Plan for Advanced Manufacturing

AIHA's Nanotechnology Working Group provides the straightforward, but powerful recommendation that the Strategic Plan should include worker health and safety, just as it has been part of the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI). Each of the major elements of the draft Plan include workforce development, and AIHA wishes to reinforce the reality that worker safety knowledge needs to part of that capacity building. Health and safety should also be included in the curriculum used to train our next generation of advanced manufacturing and materials technologists. A challenge to the industrial hygiene profession is how to gain knowledge of advanced materials and manufacturing so that this next generation of manufacturing can progress safely and responsibly.

Conclusion

AIHA once again thanks you for the opportunity to comment upon the National Strategic Plan for Advanced Manufacturing. We look forward to working with you to help protect the health and safety of all of workers throughout the nation. Please feel free to contact me at mames@aiha.org or (703) 846-0730.

Respectfully,



Mark Ames
Director of Government Relations
AIHA