

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Member of Congress,

I am writing to urge that you co-sponsor H.R. 6660 (Miller, D-CA) a bill which would stop the Department of Labor from proceeding with a proposed rule that would seriously undermine the ability of the federal government to protect workers' health.

The new rule would add an entire additional layer of review to the regulatory process by requiring notice and comments for all risk-related studies before a proposal could be issued. This regulatory burden would further delay the promulgation of needed new standards to protect workers from workplace health hazards.

In addition, the rule would change the assumptions underlying the current manner in which risk assessments are conducted to those favored by industry, eroding the effectiveness of all future OSHA or MSHA standards far beyond the life of this administration.

In the past 7 ½ years, the Labor Department has issued one health standard – and that was done under court order for hexavalent chromium. It has failed to meet its own deadlines on regulations to protect workers from the health effects of silica, or beryllium, or from the serious health effects of diacetyl, which causes popcorn lung.

Rather than devote what time remains during the current Administration to issuing needed standards, the Department of Labor has decided to devote its resources to further weakening the ability of OSHA or MSHA to issue any future health standards.

H.R. 6660 would forbid the Department of Labor from issuing, administering or enforcing this proposed rule.

Failure to stop implementation of this rule will dramatically and drastically adversely affect the health of the membership of our union and working people throughout this country. We urge you to oppose this initiative and become a co-sponsor of HR 6660.