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improve the health and safety
of workers and the community.*

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January 26, 2012

Senator Darrell Steinberg
President pro Tempore of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Senator Steinberg:

I am writing on behalf of the California Industrial Hygiene Council (CIHC) in support of the appointment of Ellen Widess as Chief of Cal/OSHA.

CIHC was founded in 1990 for the purpose of providing public policy makers with information related to good science and the benefits provided to Californians by the Industrial Hygiene profession. CIHC is supported by the local sections of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) within California. The local sections consist of the Northern California, Orange County, Sacramento, San Diego and Southern California organizations. The national AIHA's 10,000 members (with whom CIHC is affiliated) work for business and industry, government, academia, non-profits and labor.

Our organization knows and has great respect for Ms. Widess. We have found her to be extremely knowledgeable, experienced and competent in her field. Her former positions with the Rosenberg Foundation as a senior program officer, her consulting work with the Centers for Disease Control on child labor standards, her position as Director of Health Policy at the Children's Advocacy Institute, and her most recent work as a consultant in the field of occupational safety and health and immigration policy, make her uniquely qualified to oversee the important work done at Cal/OSHA.

Ms. Widess recently spoke at our CIHC Annual Conference in San Francisco, and we continue to be impressed with the passion and commitment to good science she brings to her newly appointed position. It is our belief that she will be successful in bringing stakeholders with varying points of view together to address California's significant environmental, health and safety issues she will face in this position.

Thank you for your consideration of this appointment. We highly recommend Ms. Widess to you.

Sincerely,

Chris Laszcz-Davis, MS, CIH, REA, President
California Industrial Hygiene Council (CIHC)