



*Advancing public policy to  
improve the health and safety  
of workers and the community.*

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**July 14, 2011**

**Honorable Jerry Brown  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95816**

**RE: Support for Continuation of the DIR Standards Board**

**Dear Governor Brown:**

On behalf of the California Industrial Hygiene Council (CIHC), we are writing to encourage you to support the continued existence of the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (Standards Board) which operates under the Cal/OSHA Program. The Standards Board is the only agency in the state authorized to adopt, amend or repeal occupational safety and health standards or orders. In addition, the Standards Board maintains standards for certain areas not covered by federal standards or enforcement. The Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Division), on the other hand, enforces the occupational safety and health laws and the regulations adopted by the Standards Board.

By way of background, the CIHC was founded in 1990 to establish a legislative presence in California to represent the Industrial Hygiene profession. The field of Industrial Hygiene is dedicated to the anticipation, recognition, evaluation, and control of occupational and environmental health hazards. CIHC, representing the five Local Sections of AIHA in California, views its mission as bringing good science to the legislative and/or regulatory table which impacts the health of both workers and the public. It is affiliated with the National American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), an 11,000 member organization, as well as the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), which represents the global community of Occupational Hygiene organizations in over 26 countries.

The California Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1973 revised worker safety and health laws and created a comprehensive state occupational safety and health program in lieu of federal preemption. The program established a clear separation of authorities for standards, enforcement and appeals. It is essential to maintain this separation to accomplish the purpose of the Act which is to assure safe and healthful working conditions for all California workers.

Among its duties, the Standards Board, following due process via public hearings, adopts and maintains occupational safety and health regulations; considers petitions for new or revised regulations proposed by any interested person concerning occupational safety and health; grants permanent variances from occupational safety and health regulations; acts as a review body for any employer or other person adversely affected by the granting or denial of a temporary variance by the Division of Occupational Safety

and Health; and holds monthly public meetings to permit interested persons to address the Board on any occupational safety and health matters or to propose new or revised regulations.

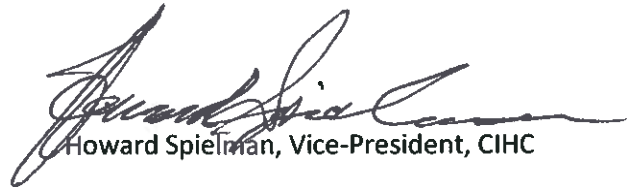
The policy of the Standards Board is that all regulations must be enforceable, reasonable, understandable, and contribute directly to the safety and health of California employees. For these reasons, we encourage you to support the continued existence of the Board. California's workers deserve the most scientifically balanced process.

Best Regards,



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