





Page 2 - The Honorable Timothy E. Wirth

cc:

OD

NIOSH

FMO

CDCW

ES/PHS

CCU/OS

ASL/OS

CLO/OS

H Official File

CDC Official File (Return to CDC, Atlanta)

CDC:JOMason;dc 02/23/88 FTS 236-3291 (M/02/23)

OS No. 8802190039; Tracer 91939; CDC ID D41531; Doc 3586B



TIMOTHY E. WIRTH  
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
BANKING  
BUDGET  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4702

February 10, 1988

Dr. Otis R. Bowen  
Secretary  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
Room 615F  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Washington, D.C. 20201

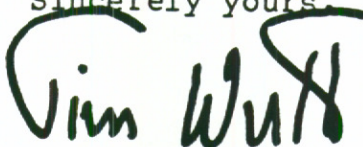
RECEIVED  
88 FEB 19 PM 1:32  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
OF SENATOR  
TIMOTHY E. WIRTH  
CONTROL CENTER

Dear Dr. Bowen:

I am writing to enlist your assistance in responding to the concerns of fellow Coloradan, Dorwin Wehmeyer. The enclosed letter reflects his concern about changes in certifying respirators for use in general industry, mining and construction by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Any help you can offer in this matter will be greatly appreciated. Please direct any correspondence on this inquiry to my Washington office: 380 Russell Senate Office Bldg.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Timothy E. Wirth

TEW/ky

791939  
TRACER 8802190039



OSHA

1290 S. Clay St.  
Denver, CO 80219  
December 21, 1987

The Honorable Timothy E. Wirth  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wirth:

I am writing to express my concern and seek your help with regard to proposed changes in certifying respirators for use in general industry, mining and construction by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

I am employed by the Safety Products Division of American Optical Corporation and take pride in the safety and protection provided to workers in industry through the manufacture and distribution of our products.

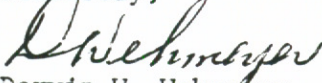
It has come to my attention that the new proposals issued in August by NIOSH (42 CFR part 84, Federal Register) will severely limit it's certification of respirators to a "mining workplace" environment only. This proposal would require manufacturers of respirators used in general industry and construction, such as American Optical, to essentially do their own certifying. All respirators currently in use will have to be re-certified under the new process and manufacturers will be required to re-test any respirators which are modified in the most minor way.

It is my understanding that 90% of the respirators in use today are used for non-mining purposes, and this proposal requires that manufacturers test all respirators under mining conditions. This would ignore the safety interests of the majority of workers who use respirators in industry and construction.

The costs, the modifications, the requirements for workplace testing will place a tremendous burden, some \$700,000,000 upon manufacturers and will threaten worker safety.

May I count on you to contact Dr. Otis Bowen, Health and Human Services Secretary, to request withdrawal of this proposed ruling? Please let me know as soon as you have contacted Secretary Bowen as to his response.

Sincerely,

  
Dorwin W. Wehmer