The Honorable Hal Daub  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Daub

Thank you for your letter of January 28 to Secretary Prowen regarding the proposed regulations governing the certification of respirators.

The current regulations under which the Mine Health and Safety Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health test and certify respirators (30 CFR Part 11) were originally promulgated in 1972. During the last several years, there has been a growing consensus among the respirator manufacturers and user community that these requirements need revision to reflect the technical advances in the field and the increased knowledge regarding environmental factors in the workplace. Some of the steps taken to develop the proposed rule are outlined in the enclosed preamble (52 FR 32402).

We are, of course, anxious to receive comments on both the technical and policy elements of this proposed rule. Toward that end, in October we extended our original comment period and announced two public hearings (52 FR 37639). The first took place in San Francisco on January 20, 1988, and the second was in Washington, D.C., on January 27-28, 1988.

We look forward to hearing from all parties concerned, and I assure you that all comments received will be placed into the record and will be carefully considered in any final rulemaking decision.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Robert E. Windom

Robert E. Windom, M.D.  
Assistant Secretary for Health

Enclosure
The Honorable Dr. Otis R. Bowen
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Bowen:

On behalf of a number of my constituents, I am requesting the review of proposed regulations by the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) (42 CFR 84, Federal Register) which may have a disastrous impact on the mining and construction industries.

The technology is not available to conform to the proposed regulations. Furthermore, the proposal will be extremely costly to several industries.

Although industry safety is paramount, I urge careful review of the NIOSH proposal.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

HAL DAUB
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

HD/jh