January 20, 1988

The Honorable Arthur Ravenel, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ravenel:

The attached correspondence to Secretary Bowen regarding the proposal by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to modify the respirator certification process does not represent the position of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO.

The Building and Construction Trades Department firmly believes that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is fully committed to improving the conditions under which our members must work and seeks to achieve this through the proposed modification of the respirator certification process.

The proposed modification reflects a dedicated effort by the professionals at NIOSH to improve the respiratory protection of the nation's working men and women whose livelihood and well-being depend, in one way or another, on such devices. The Building and Construction Trades Department believes that this modification of the respiratory protection certification process is timely and reflects the best interests of the construction tradesman and of all working people.

The Building and Construction Trades Department through its Safety and Health Committee will develop an appropriate position on the NIOSH proposal and may submit comments at the January 26-27, 1988 hearings on this matter. However, in no way should these remarks be interpreted to reflect opposition or an endorsement of this particular proposal and most certainly we do not endorse the notion that this proposed modification would increase regulations or cause expensive bureaucratic interferences mentioned in your letter.
Should you need additional information regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact the Building and Construction Trades Department’s Safety and Health personnel.

Sincerely,

Joe A. Adam
Chairman
Safety and Health Committee

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Otis R. Bowen, M.D.
The Honorable Strom Thurmond
The Honorable Ernest F. Hollings
Industrial Safety Equipment Association
Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Mine Safety and Health Administration
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
December 10, 1987

The Honorable Otis R. Bowen, MD
Secretary
Department of Health and
Human Services
300 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Bowen,

It has come to my attention that the National Institute for
Occupational Health and Safety has proposed to modify the
respirator certification process. Why in the world would you
want to further impose restrictions on the American safety
equipment industry at great expense to that industry in the
face of active opposition from:

Industrial Safety Equipment Association
JN
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Freudenberg
Litton-Clifton Precision
EG&G of Florida
TVA
Knauf Fiber Glass
National Steel and Shipbuilding Company
Riverside Cement Company
Building and Construction Trade Group of the AFL-CIO
FMC Corporation
Hubbell, Inc.
ACMUT Corporation
California State Polytechnic University
Morton Thiokol, Inc.
CVC Textren, Inc.
Knapheide Manufacturing Company

Please look into this matter and let me know your thoughts.
I thought our Republican administration was committed to
laws, regulations and expensive bureaucratic interference.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Arthur Ravenel, Jr.

ARJr/fIP

cc: Senator Strom Thurmond
Senator Ernest F. Hollings