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

Dear Mr. Ravenel:

Thank you for your letter of December 10 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 needed to be revised to reflect the technical advances in the field and the more complex environments of today's 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 expanded our original comment period and announced two public hearings (52 FR 37639). The first will take place in San Francisco on January 20, 1988, and the second is scheduled for January 27-28, 1988, in Washington, D.C. 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 taken into account before final rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Otis R. Bowen, M.D.
Secretary

Enclosure
cc:
OD
NIOSH
FMO
CDCW
ES/PHS
ASL/OS
CLO/OS

H Official File
CDC Official File (Return to CDC, Atlanta)
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Prepared by Larry Sparks, CDC, FTS 236-3061, 12/29/87
Contact Karen Lindauer, CDC, FTS 236-3322
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
200 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 NIOSH 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
3M
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.
ACKMAT Corporation
California State Polytechnical University
Morton Thiokol, Inc.
CWC Textron, Inc.
Knapheide Manufacturing Company

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

Regards,

Arthur Ravenel, Jr.

ARJr/rlp

cc: Senator Strom Thurmond
Senator Ernest F. Hollings