The Honorable Bob McEwen  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

Dear Mr. McEwen:

Thank you for your letter of February 11 on behalf of Mr. Philip Sheridan 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 announced two public hearings (52 FR 37639). The first took place in San Francisco on January 20, 1988, and the second was January 27-28, 1988, in Washington, D.C. Enclosed is a copy of the opening statement from those hearings which clarifies many of the misunderstandings of this regulation. We have also extended the comment period until March 28, 1988 (53 FR 5595).

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,

James O. Mason, M.D., Dr.P.H.  
Assistant Surgeon General  
Director

Enclosures
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cc:
OD
NIOSH
NIOSH/W
NIOSH/Docket Office
PNO
CDCW
ES/PHS
ASL/OS
CLO/OS

CDC: NIOSH: LSparks
PHS Tracer No. T92251; CDC ID #D41823; NIOSH #3290
Prepared by Larry Sparks, 3061
Contact Diane Porter, 3061
February 11, 1988

Mr. Ronald Docksai
Assistant Secretary for
Legislative Affairs
Department of Health and
Human Services
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Docksai:

The enclosed correspondence was sent to me by Philip Sheridan of Sheridan Safety Supply, Inc. of Dayton, Ohio.

If you could assist me in replying to this inquiry by requesting someone on your staff to investigate the matter and provide to me the appropriate information, I would be most grateful.

Again, Mr. Docksai, thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If I may provide any additional information necessary to you, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Bob McEwen
Member of Congress
January 12, 1988

Robert McEwen, Congressman
301 N. High Street
Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

Re: NIOSH Proposal 42CFR84

Dear Mr. McEwen:

The above pending proposal is a classic example of governmental beuracratic meddling in areas where government doesn't belong. The present respiratory approval standards are more than sufficient, and having respiratory equipment used in industry (90% of usage) meet mining standards is ludicrous.

I sincerely request of you, notification to Dr. Otis Bowen, Health and Human Services Secretary, to withdraw above proposal.

Your cooperation and advice will be greatly appreciated.

Very Truly Yours,

Philip Sheridan
SHERIDAN SAFETY SUPPLY, INC.

PS: dsw