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May 13, 2022

The Honorable Martin J. Walsh
Secretary
United States Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave, N.W. Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Walsh:

We are reaching out to you to call upon the United States Department of Labor to immediately cease any actions that threaten Arizona's state-plan status, which has been in place since 1985. We are greatly concerned about the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) recent proposal to reconsider and revoke the Arizona State Plan and revert to federal enforcement.

Arizona has operated a highly-effective occupational safety and health program for nearly 50 years – a program that we view as equally if not more effective than most federally-operated states. Any intrusion into Arizona by OSHA would jeopardize the system Arizona has worked diligently to cultivate and would be detrimental to Arizona's employees, employers, and economy.

According to the most recent data from the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, Arizona's fatal injury rate is 3.1 - far less than the national average of 4.1 and significantly less than the 3.8 rates in OSHA-operated states. Arizona's comparatively low worker fatality rate is even more striking given that Arizona is one of the fastest-growing states in the country.

The effectiveness of the Arizona State Plan, however, is reflected in more than metrics. Arizona has a unique and successful approach to addressing occupational safety and health that reflects the State's collaborative environment and culture. Arizona emphasizes strong relationships with both workers and industry that are aimed at proactively preventing workplace injuries from occurring. For example, in Fiscal Year 2021, the Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) completed over 1,000 consultation visits, impacting over 26,000 workers, provided training to nearly 16,000 workers, and worked with employers and workers to abate over 4,500 hazards.

The success of Arizona's approach is also evident in the sheer number of employers participating in partnership programs with ADOSH. Indeed, the number of Arizona employers participating in the Voluntary Protection Program per capita far surpasses the average number of employers participating in OSHA-operated states.

For all these reasons, we strongly urge the U.S. Department of Labor to cease this imprudent approach and instead take steps to collaborate with Arizona to strengthen its long-standing and successful occupational safety and health program.

Sincerely,

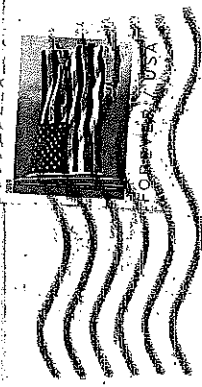
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah Swisher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Leah Swisher
ACT Executive Director

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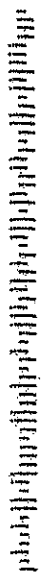
CONSTRUCTION TRADES

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