UNITED SUPPORT & MEMORIAL FOR WORKPLACE FATALITIES

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BECAUSE GOING TO WORK SHOULDN'T BE A GRAVE MISTAKE!

Mr. Thomas J. Donohue
President and CEO
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
1615 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20062-2000

April 20, 2012

Dear Mr. Donohue:

We are writing to you to express our strong concern about the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's opposition to tough enforcement of OSHA regulations and adoption of new workplace health and safety standards. We are individuals who have experienced first-hand the devastating impact of work-related hazards—our loved ones were killed on the job. Some of them died because their employers failed to comply with fundamental safety regulations. Others were fatally-injured because OSHA doesn't have regulations on the books to address many hazards (e.g., combustible dust) and our loved ones' employers chose to ignore dangerous conditions and gamble with their employees' lives. We believe that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce does a disservice to working people when it suggests that OSHA regulations are unnecessary and burdensome. Safety protections are a small price to pay for saving a worker's life and health.

We are not lobbyists. We are simply families whose lives changed forever when our loved ones went to work one day, but never came home. We also believe that effective health and safety programs that conform to industry and governmental standards and best practices serve the safety and health of workers and management at any facility. This can improve the health and economic status of all communities.

We have been very disturbed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's national campaign opposing virtually all attempts by Federal OSHA to strengthen health and safety protections for our country's workers. We have found particularly offensive some of the Chamber's publicity materials which have attacked and even ridiculed OSHA's good faith efforts to carry out its mission of making workplaces safer.

We ask that the Chamber consider these factors when taking positions on proposed OSHA standards, rather than reflexively opposing any new proposed OSHA standard or enforcement initiative. We request that the Chamber review its positions regarding OSHA proposals on Silica, Combustible Dust and Injury and Illness Prevention Programs to allow for reasonable, protective measures to be implemented to protect workers and prevent disasters in communities. We further request that the Chamber reconsider the manner in which it attacks OSHA's attempts to ensure that all employees come home safe and sound after a day's work.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.