

penses; and up to \$327,000 for Departmental Management, Inspector General. The bill also allows a transfer of up to \$356,000 for the Department of the Treasury.

The Trust Fund pays all black lung compensation/medical and survivor benefit expenses when no responsible mine operation can be assigned liability for such benefits or when coal mine employment ceased prior to 1970, as well as all administrative costs that are incurred in administering the benefits program and operating the trust fund.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015 .....	\$552,787,000
Budget estimate, 2016 .....	592,071,000
Committee recommendation .....	524,476,000

The Committee recommends \$524,476,000 for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA], which is responsible for enforcing the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 in the Nation's workplaces.

The Committee continues bill language to allow OSHA to retain course tuition and fees for training institute courses used for occupational safety and health training and education activities in the private sector. The cap established by the bill is \$499,000, the same as current law.

The bill retains language that continues to effectively exempt farms employing 10 or fewer people from the provisions of the act with the exception of those farms having a temporary labor camp. The bill also retains language exempting small firms in industry classifications having a lost workday injury rate less than the national average from general schedule safety inspections.

The exemption of small farming operations from OSHA regulation has been in place since 1976. OSHA clarified the limits of its authority to conduct enforcement on small farms in July 2014, particularly regarding post-harvest activities of a farming operation. The continued exemption for small farms and recognition of limits of the OSHA regulatory authority are critical for family farms. It is also important the Department of Agriculture be consulted in any future attempts by OSHA to redefine or modify any aspect of the small farm exemption.

The Committee recommends \$98,746,000 for grants to States under section 203(g) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. These funds primarily are provided to States that have taken responsibility for administering their own occupational safety and health programs for the private sector and/or the public sector. State plans must be at least as effective as the Federal program and are monitored by OSHA. The Committee bill continues language that allows OSHA to provide grants of up to 50 percent for the costs of State plans approved by the agency.

The Committee believes that OSHA's worker safety and health training and education programs, including the grant program that supports such training, are a critical part of a comprehensive approach to worker protection. Under the program, grants are made to various types of organizations representing employers and labor

organizations for direct training of workers on occupational safety and health. The Committee recommendation includes \$10,149,000 for the OSHA Susan Harwood Training Grant Program.

The Committee is aware of recent reports of unhealthy and dangerous working conditions in some nail salons. While OSHA has previously awarded several grants that support training and compliance assistance in this area, the Committee notes that employment for nail salon workers is projected to grow by 16 percent from 2012 to 2020—faster than the average for all occupations. Therefore, the Committee directs the agency to allocate funds within the Susan Harwood grants program to strengthen safety and health competencies in the nail salon industry, as well as to train workers to understand the requirements of OSHA regulations and standards and how to assert their rights.

The Committee recognizes that fewer injuries mean lower worker's compensation and healthcare costs, and safer, more productive workers. Statistical evidence for the Voluntary Protection Program's [VPP] success is impressive. The average VPP worksite has a Days Away Restricted or Transferred [DART] case rate of 52 percent below the average for its industry. These sites typically do not start out with such low rates. Reductions in injuries and illnesses begin when the site commits to the VPP approach to safety and health management and the challenging VPP application process.

OSHA shall dedicate not less than \$3,500,000 per year for the purpose of administering the VPP in its Federal Compliance Assistance budget. OSHA shall not reduce funding levels or the number of full time employees administering the VPP, the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program [SHARP], or Federal Compliance Assistance, and shall not collect any monies from participants for the purpose of administering these programs.

The Committee understands that, as a result of Executive Order 13650, Improving Chemical Safety and Security, OSHA is considering options to ensure the safety of ammonium nitrate handling and storage. The Committee also understands that there is no record thus far of an accidental detonation of ammonium nitrate in a situation where a storage facility has been compliant with OSHA's existing regulations at 29 CFR 1910.109(i). The existing regulations are based on standards of the National Fire Protection Association. Before any new regulations are proposed for the storage of solid ammonium nitrate, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House Representatives and the Senate; the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee; and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce that identifies any provisions of OSHA's current 29 CFR 1910.109(i) regulations under consideration for update and that evaluates the costs and benefits of such changes.

MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015 .....	\$375,887,000
Budget estimate, 2016 .....	394,932,000
Committee recommendation .....	356,878,000