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October 21, 2013

The Honorable Thomas E. Perez
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

RE: Docket No. OSHA-2010-0034

Dear Secretary Perez:

We respectfully request that you extend the comment period for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Occupational Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica Proposed Rule for 90 days. Eliminating the health risks posed by silica is a goal we all share. To achieve this goal we need strong, sensible standards and tough, responsible enforcement.

OSHA has been considering this proposal, including how the agency believes it will affect stakeholders, for 10 years. Demonstrating the complexity of the regulation, the Office of Management and Budget's review of the proposed regulation lasted two years. It is only reasonable to allow those affected by the proposal to provide OSHA thoughtful comments. That can only be accomplished by allowing the public adequate time for a thorough review of the regulation and extensive technical documents in the proposal.

We encourage you to extend the comment period by 90 days to allow interested stakeholders more time to provide the agency with relevant data and a thorough understanding of how this proposal will affect occupational safety and health and American jobs.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE

Chairman

Committee on Education and the Workforce

TIM WALBERG

Chairman

Subcommittee on Workforce Protections