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August 17, 2011

The Honorable David Michaels, PhD
Assistant Secretary of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Dr. Michaels:

We are concerned by discrepancies in existing Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) policies governing safe operation for telecommunications towers. Guidance based on policy directive CPL 2-1.36, *Interim Inspection Procedures During Communication Tower Construction Activities*, provides standards for hoisting workers while the towers are under construction, but does not address the hoisting of workers during maintenance or modification of the towers. We urge OSHA to review current policies and determine a uniform standard that ensures worker safety at every phase.

In light of differences between OSHA's inspection and enforcement procedures relating to tower erection and maintenance, we ask you to provide the following information by August 31, 2011:

- Is OSHA considering aligning the hoisting standard for tower maintenance and modification to the standard currently in place under CPL 2-1.36 for tower construction?
- If yes, when does OSHA believe the new directive will be in place?
- What outreach activities will OSHA pursue to educate the industry and other stakeholders about any changes contemplated by the agency?

As our nation grows increasingly dependent on high-speed wireless communications, we must ensure a safe working environment for all employees. We encourage OSHA personnel to thoroughly review current policy and establish directives that put worker safety first.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce

KRISTI NOEM
Member of Congress