

Page 2 - The Honorable John G. Rowland

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OS Reading File

H Official File

CDC Official File (Return to CDC, Atlanta)

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Prepared by Larry Sparks, CDC, FTS 236-3061, 12/29/87

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
January 19, 1988

Otis R. Bowen, M.D.
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Bowen:

The attached communication from my constituent, Mr. Gilbert T. Thornfeldt, is submitted for your consideration. I would like to bring to your attention his concern with proposed changes in certifying respirators for use in general industry, mining, and construction.

I would appreciate any further information on this proposal. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN G. ROWLAND
Member of Congress

JGR/pj

Enclosure

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CDC ID: D 41136
DATE: JAN 25 1988
Correspondence Unit, OD
Ext. 3322

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TRACLA

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100 Meadowbrook Place
Cheshire, CT 06410
December 21, 1987

The Honorable Sam Gejdenson
1410 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman Gejdenson:

I am writing to express my concern and seek your help with regard to proposed changes in certifying respirators for use in general industry, mining and construction by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

I am employed by the Safety Products Division of American Optical Corporation and take pride in the safety and protection provided to workers in industry through the manufacture and distribution of our products.

It has come to my attention that the new proposals issued in August by NIOSH (42 CFR part 84, Federal Register) will severely limit it's certification of respirators to a "mining workplace" environment only. This proposal would require manufacturers of respirators used in general industry and construction, such as American Optical, to essentially do their own certifying. All respirators currently in use will have to be re-certified under the new process and manufacturers will be required to re-test any respirators which are modified in the most minor way.

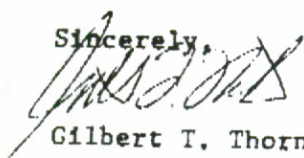
It is my understanding that 90% of the respirators in use today are used for non-mining purposes, and this proposal requires that manufacturers test all respirators under mining conditions. This would ignore the safety interests of the majority of workers who use respirators in industry and construction.

The costs, the modifications, the requirements for workplace testing will place a tremendous burden, some \$700,000,000 upon manufacturers and will threaten worker safety.

May I count on you to contact ~~Dr. Otis Bowen, Health and Human Services Secretary~~, to request withdrawal of this proposed ruling? Please let me know as soon as you have contacted Secretary Bowen as to his response.

U.S. House of Representatives
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20518
PUBLIC DOCUMENT
OFFICIAL BUSINESS


SAM GEJDENSON M.C.

Sincerely,

Gilbert T. Thornfeldt

Respectfully referred
but not acknowledged
to congressman John Rowland