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DONNA A. LUPARDO
Member of Assembly
126TH District

August 27, 2007

NIOSH Docket Office
4676 Columbia Pkwy, MS C-34
Cincinnati, OH 45226

Re: Docket Number NIOSH-103

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to urge that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) provide funding for the proposed cancer study among former IBM employees who worked at the Endicott, NY facility.

The proposed NIOSH cancer study would be of great benefit to the former and current IBM employees at the Endicott facility, to employees at other IBM facilities, and to the over 1 million employees in the electronics industry nationwide. Elevated risk of cancers has been found in the Endicott community by the NYS Department of Health and yet, no such study has been conducted on those most exposed and at greatest risk - the former workers in the IBM facility itself.

The NIOSH, "Feasibility Assessment for a Cancer Study Among Former IBM Employees Who Worked at the Endicott, NY Plant" (March 2007), confirmed that an estimated and significantly high number of the 28,000 former IBM employees worked with and were exposed to numerous carcinogenic and other hazardous chemicals. The NIOSH feasibility study also concluded that a retrospective cohort study of cancer mortality and cancer incidence is indeed scientifically feasible using existing company personnel and industrial hygiene records.

The proposed cancer study would lead to an increased understanding of the risks associated with multiple chemical exposures and the development of cancer. This has broad implications for occupational health, in general, and could also potentially lead to pollution prevention and other process safety innovations within the electronics and other industries.

For these reasons, it is critically important that NIOSH proceed with the proposed cancer study to determine if there are elevated rates of cancer among former IBM employees who worked at the Endicott, NY facility.

Sincerely,

Donna A. Lupardo
Member of Assembly

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