

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito

Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Robert Aderholt

Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski

Chair, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mike Simpson

Chair, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Jeff Merkley

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Chellie Pingree

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

April 14, 2026

Re: Focused FY27 Appropriations Request to Sustain OSHA's Safety Infrastructure

Dear Members of Congress,

Thank you for your continued leadership on worker safety and health. As Congress begins the FY27 appropriations process, we urge support for the federal agencies and institutions that together make the nation's occupational safety and health system function. Regardless of the official FY27 Administration budget request, we respectfully ask Congress to provide no less than FY26 enacted funding for the core federal occupational safety and health agencies and related bodies discussed below.

Background and Appropriations Lanes

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHRC) are funded through the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill. The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) is funded through the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill. Together, these

entities form a connected worker protection ecosystem: OSHA and MSHA carry out enforcement and compliance functions; NIOSH provides research, surveillance, and prevention science; OSHRC ensures independent adjudication and due process in contested OSHA cases; and CSB investigates catastrophic chemical incidents and issues recommendations that help prevent future disasters.

Our Focused FY27 Requests

- **OSHA:** Provide no less than **\$629.3 million**, at least the FY26 enacted level, to sustain enforcement, standards of development, compliance assistance, whistleblower protection, consultation, and training capacity. Congress should also encourage OSHA to maintain a functioning and regularly convened National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (NACOSH), so expert input remains part of the agency's policymaking and implementation infrastructure.
- **MSHA:** Provide no less than **\$387.8 million**, at least the FY26 enacted level, to preserve mine safety and health inspections, enforcement, technical capacity, and prevention efforts. Stable MSHA funding is necessary to maintain oversight and support in a sector where hazards remain severe, and consequences are often fatal.
- **NIOSH:** Provide no less than **\$366.8 million**, at least the FY26 enacted level, to protect core occupational safety and health research, surveillance, evaluation, and prevention programs. NIOSH remains essential to the nation's ability to identify emerging workplace risks, support respirator approval and other technical functions, and provide the science base that informs effective prevention across industries.
- **OSHRC:** Provide no less than **\$14.4 million**, at least the FY26 enacted level, to support adjudication capacity, including Administrative Law Judges and essential legal and clerical staff. In addition, Congress should urge prompt action to restore a working Commission quorum through nomination and Senate confirmation of additional commissioners. By statute, OSHRC is a three-member commission, and two members are required for a quorum; yet the agency currently lists only Chairman Jonathan Snare, meaning official Commission action cannot proceed as intended. Congress should also encourage regular public reporting on backlog, median case age, and decision timeliness.
- **CSB:** Provide no less than **\$14.0 million**, at least the FY26 enacted level, and reject any effort to eliminate or diminish the Board. CSB's independent investigations and recommendations play a distinct role in learning from major chemical incidents and strengthening prevention across the industrial sector. Congress should also encourage periodic reporting on open investigations, staffing, and recommendations for closures.

Why This Matters

A functional federal worker safety system requires prevention of science, enforcement, mining-specific oversight, fair adjudication, and independent root-cause investigation. Weakening any one of these elements creates ripple effects across the system: research gaps reduce prevention capacity; enforcement and assistance shortfalls reduce accountability and support; adjudication delays weaken due process and predictability; and diminished chemical incident investigation

capacity means lost opportunities to prevent future catastrophic events. These are modest but high-value investments that protect workers, support responsible employers, and strengthen public confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the federal occupational safety and health framework.

We respectfully urge the adoption of these requests and related report language in the FY27 appropriations process.

Sincerely,

Member Organizations of the Workplace EHS Coalition

American Industrial Hygiene Association

CC: President Donald J. Trump

Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Secretary Doug Burgum

Senate Majority Leader John Thune

Senate Minority Leader Charles “Chuck” Schumer

House Speaker Michael “Mike” Johnson

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries