



June 15, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Room H-305, The Capitol,  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Room H-305, The Capitol,  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies  
Room H-305, The Capitol,  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies  
Room H-305, The Capitol,  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Cole,  
and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As representatives of our nation's mining industry, concerned with the safety and health of the half a million workers employed by the industry, we are writing to express our concern with the administration's FY'18 budget request for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and, of greater concern, elimination of the line-item directing specific funding for mine safety and health research.

NIOSH, a division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, is the sole governmental agency responsible for conducting research to prevent workplace accidents. Under the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (MINER ACT) Congress mandated creation,

within NIOSH, of the Office of Mine Safety and Health Research (OMSHR) with funding delineated and directed to improve the health and safety of our nation's mine workers.

OMSHR is responsible for the development of new mine safety technology and technological applications and to expedite the commercial availability and implementation of such technology in mining environments. OMSHR's roots date back to the U.S Bureau of Mines, in the early 1900's. OMSHR produces relevant and impactful solutions for today's 13,000 U.S. mining operations in all 50 states that provide \$220 billion in economic contribution to the U.S. GDP. OMSHR's applied research and technological innovation focus produces technologies, process improvements and workplace practices that have enabled the industry to achieve historic low number of injuries and fatalities in recent years.

The proposed elimination of OMSHR's line-item will have a devastating impact on our goal of zero fatalities. The loss of direct funding for mining research challenges this commitment to mine workers, their health and safety and this domestic industry, which also critically supports national security.

We request you maintain OMSHR's funding at the FY'17 funding levels and retain OMSHR's line-item directing funding for mine safety and health research.

Sincerely

National Mining Association  
American Exploration and Mining Association  
Industrial Minerals Association – North America  
International Union of Operating Engineers  
National Lime Association  
Portland Cement Association  
United Mine Workers of America  
United Steelworkers International Union