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September 9, 2014

To: Labor-Management Advisory Council

The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) Employment Relations Division (ERD) is applying for funding of the Montana Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance (MOHSS) Fundamental Program, through a 5-year grant from National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). MOHSS will serve 3 main purposes and goals:

1. Collect, report, and analyze the NIOSH Occupational Health Indicators as a baseline for occupational health surveillance. Regular collection and analysis of trends in occupational health will be used to monitor Montana's occupational safety and health landscape, reveal areas in need of more in-depth surveillance, and guide prevention efforts.
2. Use interagency collaborations to improve the quantity and quality of occupational health data collected and used for occupational health surveillance. MOHSS will work to improve access to and quality of existing systems as well as exploration into new data sources. Groups we aim to collaborate with include the MT Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), DLI Research and Analysis, and other organizations
3. Create and maintain active communication between MOHSS and stakeholders in occupational safety and health, such as the Safety and Health Bureau, DPHHS and LMAC, to provide avenues through which information from MOHSS can guide interventions and preventative policy. These relationships will also provide external guidance to MOHSS and provide council on aspects of occupational health of particular importance or concern.