



Governor Steve Bullock
Commissioner Pam Bucy

Montana Department of LABOR & INDUSTRY

Commissioner's Office

September 9, 2014

Center for Scientific Review
National Institutes of Health
6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 1040, MSC 7710
Bethesda, MD 20817

Re: PAR-14-275 State Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program

Dear Peer Review Panel,

We, the members of the Labor-Management Advisory Council (LMAC) of Montana, are writing in support of the application of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) to fund the Montana Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance (MOHSS) program.

A program devoted to developing and utilizing surveillance systems of occupational health and safety in Montana will be extremely valuable as we work to improve the landscape of occupational safety and health in the state. While Montana lags behind other states in general workplace safety statistics, these general statistics do not provide enough information for our stakeholders to drill down to specific areas of concern and develop appropriate solutions. More complete data made available by MOHSS will allow for more well-informed policy and new programs that address the issues surrounding occupational safety and health in Montana.

The LMAC was formed to find ways to improve the workers' compensation system. Through a collaborative discussion and review of the issues surrounding our state, LMAC recommends and proposes new policies and supports safety programs and efforts in the state. Our council consists of leaders representing employers and employees, as well as other stakeholders in the system. We feel that improved occupational health and surveillance, through MOHSS, can only move us closer to our goals.

We, the LMAC, fully support the work by DLI's MOHSS as they seek funding to continue surveillance of occupational health and improve the use of data by other groups and stakeholders. In the event that MOHSS is funded, we will support the program with our knowledge and guidance to MOHSS and use the information it provides to better inform policy decisions.

This work will improve the knowledge of the hazards that threaten Montana's workers and will be invaluable in the effort to improve both employer and worker knowledge of the risks that exist at the workplace every day.

Signed,



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