



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI PRAISES LOWEST WORKPLACE INJURY RATE ON RECORD; LAYS OUT GOALS TO FURTHER IMPROVE WORKPLACE SAFETY***

**Washington, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today praised America’s employers, workers, and regulators after the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the workplace injury rate fell to a record low of 4.6 cases per 100 workers last year, and said he will keep working in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress to improve safety without imposing overly burdensome regulation.

“When Congress returns next year, we must pursue policies that will protect the safety of America’s workers without making the cost of regulation and compliance so great that we prevent employers from doing what they do best – running a business,” Enzi said.

“As a former small business owner, I understand the importance of protecting our workers, and I have experienced the pitfalls of overly burdensome government regulations,” Enzi said. “We must promote a workplace environment that ensures safety, encourages responsibility, and fosters a flexible regulatory framework that allows small businesses to grow.”

Enzi praised the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for its efforts in the last year to help businesses comply with safety rules while targeting bad actors, and said he hopes to continue working closely with OSHA to improve safety and compliance.

In order to ensure that American workers are safe and that America’s businesses can remain competitive, Enzi said he will focus in the next Congress on:

- Adapting regulations and promoting new technologies to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace;
- Overseeing enforcement of all federal safety laws, including the “Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response” (MINER) Act, which the HELP Committee passed and President Bush signed into law this year;
- Fostering improved cooperation between employers, employees, and federal regulators through the “Occupational Safety Partnership Act,” which Enzi introduced this year;
- Increasing the procedural fairness, transparency and efficiency of OSHA through the “Occupational Safety Fairness Act,” which Enzi also introduced this year; and,

- Reducing the cost of regulation and red tape through laws and policies that enhance practical and innovative solutions, rather than simply enacting rigid rules that stifle growth.

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