

Partner

September 13, 2010

Organizations

Honorable George Miller

UNITED STEELWORKERS

Chairman Committee on Education and Labor

US House of Representatives

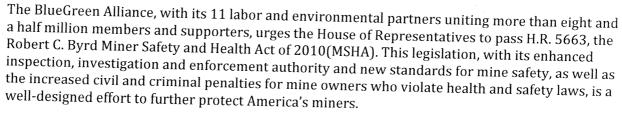
2181 Rayburn House Office Building

IERRA Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

Recent workplace disasters, including the explosion of BP's Deepwater Horizon oil rig, the explosion in the Massey Upper Big Branch mine in West Virginia, and the fire at the Tesoro Refinery in Anacortes, Washington, have cost the lives of 47 men and women. These 47 and the 5,000 other Americans who die as a result of workplace accidents and illnesses every year demonstrate the urgent need to add new federal protections for the safety and health of American workers.



















We also strongly support Title VII of this legislation and its provisions from the Protecting America's Workers Act (PAWA) that are focused on increased civil and criminal penalties, expanded protection for whistleblowers, and added rights for victims and their families. These are important and necessary components of a modernized and strengthened Occupational Safety and Health law. Currently, under OSHA, the maximum criminal penalty for willful violations resulting in fatality is \$10,000, while the maximum penalty for killing an endangered species is \$13,000. Especially important is the provision in Section 307 that clarifies that employers must abate serious, willful, and repeat violations while they contest the citations for the original violations.

The BlueGreen Alliance would like to thank you for the introduction of H.R. 5663, the Robert C. Byrd Miner Safety and Health Act of 2010. This is an integral step towards improving the working lives of the American people and with your leadership we will continue to rally support in Congress.

Sincerely,

David Foster **Executive Director**