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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

January 19, 2000

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 693-2106

The Honorable Charles Jeffress
Assistant Secretary of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
Room S-2315
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Assistant Secretary Jeffress:

This letter is to follow up on my letter dated January 6, 2000 and co-signed by 62 other members of Congress requesting an extension of the comment period deadline for the proposed ergonomics rule. For an extension to provide the maximum benefit, it should be issued as soon as possible so that those commenting can take advantage of the extra time. Marc Freedman of the Small Business Committee Staff will be contacting your office by the close of business on January 20, 2000 for a response.

Thousands of businesses, associations, and other interested parties intend to comment on this regulation and over 1100 have requested an extension of the comment period. If OSHA elects to deny these interested parties an extension of this comment period, it is stating that this rulemaking is focused on issues other than safety, or other than promulgating the most reasonable regulation by considering the views of those who are attempting to help the agency craft a better regulation.

I am hopeful that you will see the benefits of this modest request.

Sincerely,


Christopher S. "Kit" Bond