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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

February 23, 2000

New Analysis Reveals Reality Behind Proposed OSHA Ergonomics Rule

Dear Colleague:

Attached is an analysis of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's proposed regulation on ergonomics from the Employment Policy Foundation. The analysis identifies many of the problems with OSHA's proposed ergonomics rule and explains in detail how OSHA's claims made to support the regulation are misleading.

As the attached analysis makes clear, the impact on small business in America from this regulation would be staggering. (An in depth analysis of the regulation is available from the Employment Policy Foundation at www.epf.org.) **EPF's analysis estimates the cost to the American economy of this regulation is an astounding \$80 billion annually, not the ridiculously low estimate of \$4.5 billion annually claimed by OSHA.** Even the Small Business Administration stated that OSHA has underestimated the cost of their ergonomics regulation by up to fifteen times.

Last May we introduced S. 1070, the Sensible Ergonomics Needs Scientific Evidence Act which is now cosponsored by forty-six other Senators. S. 1070 would prevent OSHA from moving forward with this regulation until a congressionally mandated peer-review of all the scientific literature surrounding the issue of ergonomics is completed by the independent National Academy of Sciences. This peer-review will be completed in late 2000 or early 2001. As the attached analysis of the proposal on ergonomics from OSHA clearly demonstrates, it is imperative that more scientific analysis of this issue become available before OSHA continues to move forward. For more information, contact Marc Freedman of Senator Bond's staff at 4-5175.

Sincerely,


Don Nickles


Christopher S. "Kit" Bond