

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 16, 2008

The Honorable Edwin G. Foulke
Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Mr. Foulke,

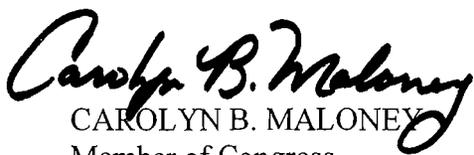
We write to urge you to improve crane safety by issuing the long overdue safety standards for cranes and derricks.

Last month's crane collapse in New York City, which caused the death of two people and injury to several others, is only the latest in a disturbing pattern of tragic crane accidents across the country in recent months. Also last month, crane accidents in Missouri and Iowa together killed two workers and injured 3 others. In March of this year, six workers and a tourist were killed and 24 more were injured when a 300-foot-tall crane collapsed again in Manhattan, demolishing a town house and an apartment building. This alarming trend demands speedy action from the federal government.

Unfortunately, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) actions on crane safety have been far from speedy. The current standard, written in 1971, is obsolete as crane technology has changed significantly over the last 37 years. To make matters worse, in 2004 an OSHA-sponsored labor-industry negotiated rulemaking developed a draft revised standard, including specific rules on crane assembly. But sadly, four years later, OSHA has still not issued a proposed rule. This delay is unacceptable and has proved deadly.

Please advise us by June 23, 2008 when OSHA expects to promulgate the crane and derrick standards and why it has taken nearly four years to do so.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress


LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress


CAROLYN MCCARTHY
Member of Congress


TIMOTHY BISHOP
Member of Congress


YVETTE CLARKE
Member of Congress



PHIL HARE
Member of Congress



CHAKA FATTAH
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress



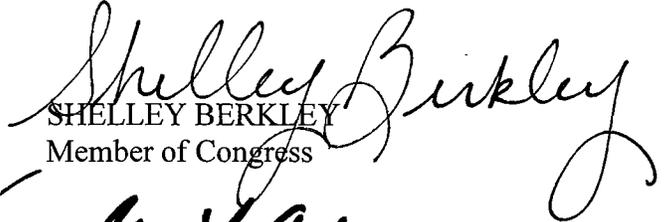
JOSE E. SERRANO
Member of Congress



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



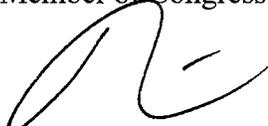
SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress



JESSE L. JACKSON JR.
Member of Congress



GARY L. ACKERMAN
Member of Congress



ANTHONY D. WEINER
Member of Congress