

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 4, 2008

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Walsh,  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh,

We write to ask for your help in improving crane safety for workers by including language in the Fiscal Year 2009 Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) Appropriations bill directing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue a proposed safety standard concerning cranes and derricks by October 1, 2008 and to issue a final standard by October 1, 2009.

Last week's crane collapse in Rep. Maloney's New York City district, 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. 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 Rep. Maloney's district, 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 The current standard, written in 1971, is obsolete as crane technology has changed significantly over the last 37 years.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.

Given the urgency of the matter and the direct crisis in Rep. Maloney's district, we ask that you consider including report language in the LHHS Appropriations bill requiring OSHA to issue a proposed safety standard concerning cranes and derricks by October 1, 2008 and to issue a final standard by October 1, 2009. We submit for your consideration the following draft language:

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*Not later than October 1, 2008, the Secretary of Labor shall, pursuant to section 6 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655), issue a proposed safety standard concerning cranes and derricks, and shall issue a final standard not later than October 1, 2009.*

Thank you for your attention to this matter of great importance to the safety of workers across the country. Please do not hesitate to contact us or our staffs with any questions.

Sincerely,

  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

  
GEORGE MILLER  
Member of Congress