



Harrisburg, PA 17120

DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR & INDUSTRY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

www.dli.state.pa.us

August 22, 2000

Mr. David H. Wilderman Original: 2038
Assistant to the President/Director of Legislation
Pennsylvania AFL-CIO
230 State Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101-1147

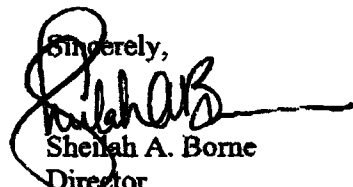
RECEIVED
2000 AUG 22 PM 4:43
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dave:

Thank you for your correspondence dated August 21, 2000, and our subsequent telephonic conversation this morning, regarding the Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Regulations. At this time, the Department would like to extend the opportunity to the AFL-CIO to discuss its concerns and recommendations as noted in its comments submitted to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) on August 4, 2000.

By means of background, the Department submitted the proposed Health & Safety regulations to IRRC and the standing committees on June 4, 1999. The proposed rulemaking was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on Saturday, June 19, 1999, thus commencing the 20 day public comment period. We have no record of the AFL-CIO responding at any time prior to, or during, this period. Almost 13 months later, on August 4, 2000 (less than one week prior to IRRC's scheduled public meeting to consider this rulemaking), we received comments from the AFL-CIO. On August 8, 2000, the Department withdrew the regulations to address a technical revision recommended by IRRC. We fully expect to resubmit the regulations, with any necessary adjustments, in the near future.

Although the Department is not required under the provisions of the Regulatory Review Act (Act) to formally respond to comments received outside of the public comment period as designated by the Act, we are always interested in hearing the AFL-CIO's thoughts on issues of mutual concern. To that end, we are willing to accommodate your request for a meeting. Please contact me at 717-787-5087 to arrange the time and location.

Sincerely,

Sheila A. Borne
Director
Legislative & Public Affairs

cc: **Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director**
John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman
Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman
Commissioner John F. Mizner
Commissioner Arthur Coccodrilli
Commissioner Robert J. Harbison III