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FEB 23 2012

Senator Mark Miller  
Chair  
Special Committee on Nanotechnology  
One East Main Street, Suite 401  
P.O.Box 2536  
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2536

Dear Senator Miller:

Thank you for your letter to me dated February 2, 2012 concerning federal efforts in nanotechnology. I appreciate the active interest that the Wisconsin Legislature has taken concerning nanotechnology and particularly workplace safety and health.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is a participating agency in the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) and cross-agency efforts are coordinated through the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office (NNCO). Through the NNCO, NIOSH maintains regular contact with the other federal agencies conducting nanotechnology research. NIOSH actively works with other agencies, particularly the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) on several aspects of environmental, health and safety (EHS) research. NIOSH is currently developing comments that will be submitted to EPA on Proposed Significant New Use Rules for seven nanomaterials. NIOSH also developed a draft guidance document that establishes the first nationally promulgated recommended exposure limit (REL) for carbon nanotubes and nanofibers, guidance that the industry has stated will be valuable to them in establishing their risk management programs. Previously, NIOSH issued a REL on nanoscale titanium dioxide. Specifically, pertinent to Wisconsin, NIOSH has been involved with the new and growing nanocellulose industry and has been interacting with the USDA Forest Products Laboratory in Madison.

NIOSH will continue to maintain nanotechnology research as a priority and to provide information and findings of its research to other government agencies. NIOSH will also continue to work with the NNI to support a federal coordinated effort to address adverse effects of nanomaterials and will continue to develop guidance that will assist nanomaterial companies with the safe and responsible development of this promising technology. Currently, NIOSH is preparing a strategic plan for nanotechnology research and guidance 2013-2015. NIOSH will continue to fund nanomaterial research as a priority. Additionally, NIOSH will continue its national and international collaborations. I have sent an identical response letter to the cosigner of your letter.

Sincerely,



*for* John Howard, M.D.  
Director

cc: Wisconsin Congressional Delegation members  
Inez More Tenenbaum, Chairman, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Rafael Moure-Eraso, Ph.D., Chairperson, U.S. Chemical Safety & Hazard Investigation Bd.  
Tom Vilsak, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Lisa Jackson, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
Dr. Sally Tinkle, Deputy Director, National Nanotechnology Coordination Office  
John P. Holdren, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy  
David Michaels, Ph.D., MPH, Asst. Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety & Health