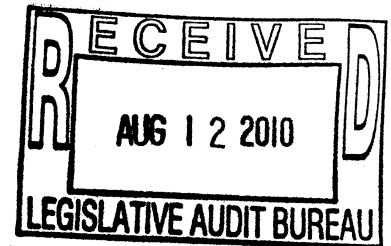




WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
State Senator Kathleen Vinehout
State Representative Peter Barca



August 11, 2010

Mr. Aaron Olver, Secretary
Department of Commerce
201 West Washington Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Mr. Olver:

We have requested that the Legislative Audit Bureau conduct a limited-scope review of the responsibilities of the Department of Commerce in ensuring the safety of public-sector employees while they are on the job. As we understand it, the Department's Division of Safety and Buildings establishes and enforces occupational safety and health standards for public-sector employees.

We have asked Bureau staff to assess the scope of the Department's responsibility for the ensuring public-sector employee safety in the workplace; review staffing and expenditures; analyze the number of inspections conducted and consultative services provided annually; and determine the volume and disposition of any formal complaints received by the Department.

The Bureau plans to begin this work immediately. Therefore, we appreciate the cooperation you and your staff will provide to the Bureau as it conducts its work. At the conclusion of its review, we anticipate the Bureau will issue a brief letter report summarizing its findings.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact our offices.

Sincerely,

Senator Kathleen Vinehout, Co-chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Peter Barca, Co-chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

cc: Janice Mueller
State Auditor