



February 20, 2018

**Support Transparency & Public Input in Occupational Safety & Health Regulations
by
Voting AGAINST Passage of HB 314**

Dear Chairman Bowen, Vice Chairman Humphries, and Members of the Senate Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

On behalf of the American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA) and our Kentuckiana Local Section¹, I write to you urging you to vote against passage of HB 314 when, and if your committee considers this bill. This bill threatens to reduce transparency and public input into occupational safety and health regulations by taking power away from the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board and giving additional power to the Labor Cabinet secretary.

Power is best wielded not by one, but the many. In similar fashion, regulatory actions should not be rushed; rather decisions should be made in a timely manner that provides room for public input and deliberation. The Labor Cabinet secretary chairs the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, and is empowered to convene meetings of the Board as the secretary deems necessary. The Board has the authority to consider revisions, revocations, or modifications to safety and health rules, regulations, and standards. This existing jurisdiction and authority alone make this legislation unnecessary.

In summary, this legislation constitutes an unnecessary and dangerous step away from the democratic principles that have been the hallmark of our republic for more than 200 years. For these reasons, AIHA urges you to vote against passage of HB 314 when, and if your committee considers this bill.

We look forward to working with you to help protect the health and safety of all of Kentucky's residents. Please feel free to contact me at mames@aiha.org or (703) 846-0730.

Founded in 1939, AIHA is the premier association of occupational and environmental health and safety professionals. AIHA and our members have a reach that extends to millions of people, and we have solid credibility that is built from 79 years of service to the occupational and environmental health and safety community. Specifically, AIHA has 8,500 members who represent a cross-section of industry, private business, labor, government, and academia. We have 68 Local Sections that meet regularly throughout the United States, and more than 50 volunteer groups. We also have formal and informal partnership agreements with governmental and

¹ For additional information on AIHA's Kentuckiana Local Section please visit <https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/LocalSections/Kentuckiana/Pages/default.aspx>.

nongovernmental organizations that represent the full spectrum of worker health and safety vocations. In addition, we have several award-winning publications, a strong social media presence and capabilities, and we host conferences where thought leaders from a variety of industries or who specialize in select health and safety topics, such as personal protective equipment, ventilation, and other exposure control methods, gather to share new information and answer practical questions. For additional information, please visit www.aiha.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ames', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Ames
Director of Government Relations
AIHA