



Your Essential  
Connection

February 16, 2006

Honorable Michael Chertoff  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Nebraska Avenue Center, NW  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

On behalf of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), I am writing to express our concern and opposition to recent reports that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Bureau may continue their impersonation of OSHA personnel to target illegal workers.

If you recall, last July ICE agents targeted illegal immigrant workers at an Air Force Base in North Carolina by posing as OSHA representatives and holding a fake OSHA meeting. Immediately upon conclusion of this “sting”, the Department of Labor and OSHA both announced their opposition to such tactics and the threat to the effectiveness of state and federal health and safety efforts. When asked about this incident during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in October, you were quoted as saying “I think that was a bad idea, and I’ve directed that we not do it again”.

AIHA has now heard reports that in a closed meeting on January 30 ICE officials told immigration and labor groups that ICE would continue to have its agents pose as officials from other agencies, including OSHA, to nab illegal immigrants at work sites. AIHA hopes such a report is incorrect and that ICE is not planning on again using tactics that will have a detrimental effect on the health and safety of all workers, including illegal immigrants.

For workers who already may mistrust government and are afraid to raise safety and health issues or complain; this would be another reason for immigrants to keep quiet. The result could be more injuries and fatalities among immigrant workers, who already suffer a disproportionate share. Actions like this by ICE only serve to undermine OSHA’s efforts to reach out and address the serious health and safety problems that immigrant workers face in their workplaces.

AIHA appreciates and supports the difficult job of protecting our national security, including the apprehension of illegal immigrants. However, we believe there are alternative means to complete the mission without having to impede efforts to make our workplaces safer and

**AIHA**

*Your Essential Connection:  
Advancing Occupational and Environmental Health  
and Safety Globally*

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healthier. AIHA and our 12,000 professionals in occupational and environmental health and safety condemn such tactics and call on you and the Administration to put a halt to the use of such tactics in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R M Buchan", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Roy M. Buchan, Dr.PH., CIH  
President

cc: Jonathan Snare, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA  
Julie L Myers, Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Senator Michael Enzi  
Senator Edward Kennedy  
Representative Charlie Norwood  
Representative Major Owens