



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DELAURO
3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

October 4, 2017

Loren Sweatt

Deputy Assistant Secretary and acting Assistant Secretary of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary Sweatt:

I write to express concern regarding your agency's staffing, specifically pertaining to on board inspectors. Inspections are a critical component to achieving the Occupational Safety and Health's (OSHA) mission of reducing workplace injuries from health and safety hazards. For many workers in the United States, this could be a matter of life or death.

In 2015 alone, 4,800 workers were killed on the job and over 3 million were seriously injured — even with evidence of under reporting. Work related injuries costs businesses in the United States an estimated \$198 billion a year according to the National Safety Council. Yet, there are only 1,838 inspectors on the federal and state level to inspect the nearly 8 million workplaces under your agency's jurisdiction. That means OSHA has only enough funding to inspect every workplace under its jurisdiction every 159 years.

It is my understanding that your agency has not filled many vacant inspector positions following the Administration's lift of the hiring freeze on the federal workforce in April 2017. Nearly six months later, I remain concerned about the pace of hiring at your agency as it will have severe consequences on the health and safety of workers. For example, in Mississippi, a state with some of the highest fatality rates, OSHA inspections have decreased by 100, or 25 percent, since the beginning of the year, compared to the same time period in 2016. For federal offices covering the Southeast, the number of inspections has dropped substantially in 2017 compared to 2016. Only 3,248 inspections opened up by the end of June, a drop of almost 450 inspections, or over 12 percent, compared to the year before.

As such, I request you provide the following information for both non-supervisory Certified Safety and Health Officer (CSHO) and supervisory CSHO in each area office: the number of OSHA inspectors on board as of January 20, 2017; the number of inspector vacancies as of January 20, 2017; the number of inspectors who have left since January 20, 2017; the number of inspectors who have been hired since January 20, 2017; the number of new inspectors that have come on board since January 20, 2017; the number of inspector positions that are currently vacant; and the number of inspector vacancies that the agency plans to fill by the end of FY 2017. I request this information no later than October 31, 2017.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. OSHA should have the adequate staff to help ensure that employers identify and eliminate serious workplace hazards and provide safe workplaces for their workers.

Sincerely,



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress