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March 30, 1981

TO: Colleagues in Industry

FROM: Henry B. Barg *HB*
Director of Corporate Relations

RE: Federal Rescissions and Budget Cuts for Educational
Resource Centers - Occupational Safety and Health

The 12 NIOSH Educational Resource Centers, industry's major sources of professionals to fill occupational safety and health positions, are being threatened by President Reagan's request that all but \$1 million of the \$11.3 million appropriated for this current fiscal year (FY 81) be rescinded. Furthermore, there will be no money budgeted for fiscal 1982.

The budget cuts would essentially wipe out these specialized training centers which were established during the past four years under congressional mandate. Besides the Center here at the Harvard School of Public Health, centers in Arizona, California, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Utah, and Washington would be totally eliminated. These centers, operated by consortia of well-respected health professions schools and hospitals, train physicians, nurses, engineers, lawyers, and others to deal expertly with occupational safety and health problems. Their teaching emphasizes the prevention of accidents and disease in the workplace which ultimately results in higher worker productivity as well as reduced costs for treatment and rehabilitation of sick and injured workers.

Of the 2400 men and women graduated from the 12 centers since 1977, 70% have gone to work in industry, 20% in academia, and 10% in government. 550 applicants have been accepted for entering enrollment next fall and there are 250 current students just completing the first year of a two-year program. Elimination of the FY 81 budget severely limits the chance that current first-year students will finish their degree and that future students will enroll in Graduate Programs in Occupational Safety and Health.

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An independent survey by John Short Associates of budgeted, but yet unfilled occupational safety and health related positions in industry for just the year 1980, reveals a staggering current demand:

	<u>Industrial Demand</u>	<u>Supplied by Ed. Resource Centers</u>
Industrial Hygiene	1600	303
Safety	2500	194
Nursing	600	40
Medicine	100	43
Allied Professions	370	150

The demand for these specialists will increase even more sharply if the training centers are significantly diminished or do not survive at all.

It is to your company's direct benefit that it apply as much pressure as possible on the members of the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations and the Chairmen and members of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Health/Labor, Education and Welfare not to rescind the current year's budget for NIOSH's Educational Resource Centers. Please notify your government affairs office, trade associations, and relevant professional associations and societies that this impending budget cut will be made by mid-April (a list of the members of the appropriate committees to lobby is attached).

On behalf of the Harvard School of Public Health, thank you for whatever assistance your company can offer on this matter of critical importance.

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