

Bituminous Coal Operators' Association, Inc.
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March 17, 2008

Dear Coal Mine Operator:

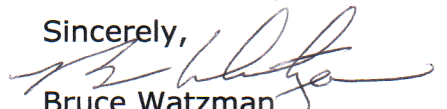
The National Mining Association (NMA) and Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) is pleased to endorse and encourage your participation in the Survey of Mine Safety Interventions sponsored by the Mining Program of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The purpose of the survey is to evaluate several recent interventions by NIOSH intended to improve mine safety, and to improve future interventions.

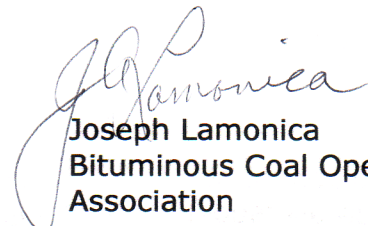
The Mining Program has made many significant contributions to coal mine safety including methods for preventing explosions and fires, reducing exposure to respirable dust, developing roof supports and responding to mine emergencies. While most of this work has been conducted with the assistance of mine operators, NIOSH seeks the views of a broader cross-section of coal mine operators for planning future work and for distributing its products throughout the industry. Ultimately, this will lead to safer mines. For these reasons, we encourage you to complete the questionnaire and return it at your earliest convenience.

Your participation is completely voluntary. NIOSH and the contractors who are conducting this survey have assured us that no information that identifies individual mines will be published or released in any form whatsoever. We hope you will seriously consider participating in this survey.

If you have any questions or comments about this survey we urge you to call NIOSH at the number listed on the questionnaire.

Sincerely,


Bruce Watzman
National Mining Association


Joseph Lamonica
Bituminous Coal Operators
Association