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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

J. MICHAEL MYERS, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL  
KATHERINE BRUNETT MCGUIRE, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

<http://help.senate.gov>

August 27, 2007

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Madam Secretary:

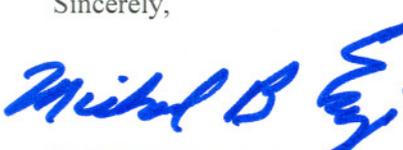
We write with respect to the tragic events at the Crandall Canyon Mine in Utah. We join the nation in grieving the loss of lives, as well as for the families of the victims. In that regard, we would like to offer our condolences for your loss of an employee of the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) in the rescue effort and understand how difficult it must have been to attend the funeral of a valued employee. These recent events highlight the importance of the role of MSHA in protecting the safety of our nation's miners. Indeed, worker protection is the most vital function of the Department of Labor and its safety and health administrations.

In light of these tragedies, we recognize that you will be undertaking a thorough review of the causes of these accidents. Further, we recognize that you will seek to determine how to avoid accidents of this magnitude in the future. We would appreciate if you would keep us fully apprised of your schedule of review, as well as your findings and key documents, as you proceed. We are requesting a full briefing as soon as is practicable with periodic briefings throughout the review. We urge you to expedite this examination and provide us with your conclusions and recommendations as quickly as possible.

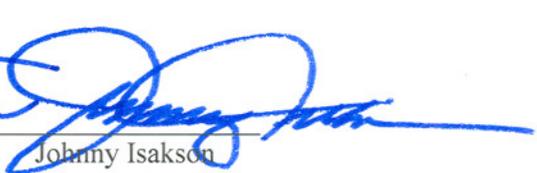
We salute the brave men and women who work in the mines across the United States everyday. We know that MSHA and the Department of Labor work daily to protect these men and women. We want to work with you to address the causes of the tragedies at Crandall Canyon and to avoid the possibility of any future accidents of this gravity.

Please have your office contact our staff to arrange an initial briefing: Brian Hayes (224-6770) and Lauren Fuller (224-6770) with Senator Enzi; Chris Campbell (224-5251) with Senator Hatch; and Ed Egee (224-3643) with Senator Isakson. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there are questions or if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Michael B. Enzi

  
Orrin Hatch

  
Johnny Isakson