

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

February 27, 2017

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I urge you to oppose H. J. Res. 83, disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Clarification of Employer's Continuing Obligation to Make and Maintain an Accurate Record of Each Recordable Injury and Illness." Disapproving this rule would undermine safety in some of the nation's most dangerous industries, many of which employ Teamsters.

The rule does not impose new costs on employers and simply reaffirms OSHA's ability to enforce injury and illness recordkeeping. This rule became necessary when a 2012 court decision overturned policy that had been in place for 40 years by limiting enforcement of OSHA's injury recordkeeping regulations to a six month period. OSHA publishes the data that it collects from employers on worksite injury and illness which is then utilized by employers, unions, and workers to identify and fix workplace hazards. With limited resources, OSHA also utilizes the data to target its enforcement and compliance activities to the most dangerous workplaces thus making it essential that OSHA have accurate information. With under-reporting of injury and illness data already a major issue, it makes no sense to effectively strip OSHA of its ability to enforce reporting requirements as this ultimately impacts workplace safety. Congress should be working to improve work place safety not undermine it, and voting for H.J. Res 83 will ultimately harm working men and women.

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I urge you to oppose H. J. Res. 83 to protect OSHA's ability to enforce accurate injury and illness reporting and to ensure workers have a safe and healthy workplace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Hoffa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James P. Hoffa
General President