



October 25, 2023

Senator Bernie Sanders  
Chairman  
United States Senate  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor  
and Pensions

Senator Bill Cassidy  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor  
and Pensions

**Re: Nomination of Amanda Wood Laihow to remain a Commissioner on the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission**

Dear Senators Sanders and Cassidy:

The Coalition for Workplace Safety strongly support the nomination of Amanda Wood Laihow to remain a commissioner on the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHRC). She has demonstrated a keen understanding of workplace safety and the law governing it, as well as the ability to work with other members of the OSHRC to arrive at balanced decisions.

The OSHRC is a vital adjudicatory body that hears appeals of OSHA citations. The cases it handles are the ones that define the intricacies and boundaries of OSHA law in issues like workplace violence, heat exposure, ergonomics, and other citations involving the General Duty Clause where there is no specific regulation describing what is necessary to protect employees.

Commissioner Laihow's term expired on April 27. Because she was not renominated and confirmed by then, the OSHRC has been down to just one member and is unable to issue decisions. The OSHRC is a three-member commission and can function with only two commissioners if both commissioners agree on a case's outcome. Currently, important questions about OSHA law are going unanswered, leaving both employers and employees uncertain about what protections are necessary.

Commissioner Laihow was confirmed without objection in January 2020, and served as Chief Counsel to the previous Chairman of the OSHRC. She has extensive experience with the

*The CWS is comprised of associations and employers who believe in improving workplace safety through cooperation, assistance, transparency, clarity, and accountability.*

OSHRC and has shown sound judgment and an appreciation for equitable decisions. She has earned the right to continue serving as a commissioner on the OSHRC.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for Workplace Safety