

July 7, 1999

Dear PEF Member in PESH:

This communication is to solicit your input and assistance. Over the past couple of years it has become apparent to PEF that the PESH Program has experienced deteriorating staffing levels that are having a detrimental effect on the program's performance. This became more evident when we recently obtained the biennial evaluation report from OSHA for the period 1/1/96 through 12/31/97.

OSHA cited numerous safety outliers (areas of deficiency), and concluded that PESH staffing levels for safety were inadequate to perform the requirements of the program. According to OSHA, staffing levels for safety inspectors are 64.5% of the federal benchmark and 77.8% for health inspectors.

We have already raised these concerns at the PEF/ DOL statewide labor/management committee. Labor Department managers have been responsive to our concerns regarding short staffing in PESH. However, it is apparent that the only real solution to this problem is through political action. Therefore, we have been approached to act in concert with allied public sector unions and seek legislative support. Your assistance in completing the enclosed questionnaire will provide necessary information so that PEF can pursue this problem aggressively and obtain adequate staffing for the PESH program.

In order to address these issues in the appropriate forums, we need your input and recommendations. Please take a few minutes to reflect on your program, answer the questions, and mail the form in the self-addressed envelope. Be assured that all responses will be kept in complete confidence. The information will be aggregated and summarized in an appropriate report format. Feel free to attach additional comments.

Thank you for taking an interest in your program, job security, and the health and safety of public sector workers.

Sincerely:

Jeff Satz  
Labor/ Management Chair

Dennis Beagle  
Labor/ Management Assistant Chair

CC: DOL Executive Board, L/M, Stewards, and Field Reps