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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

August 22, 2014

Director Shaun Donovan  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Donovan:

Congratulations on your confirmation as Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). I am writing to make you aware of a priority of mine which I have already raised with Secretary Burwell: the critical need for new buildings for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

NIOSH's mission is to "prevent work-related injury, illness, and death." In Cincinnati, NIOSH research and support activities are located on two separate campuses, approximately eight miles apart. Both campuses are comprised of aging 1950's-era facilities that are in varying states of disrepair, and are increasingly deficient in both space configuration and building systems. Because of this, scientific collaboration is limited and NIOSH's cutting-edge scientific research is inhibited. Upgrading these facilities is of paramount importance, and should be a priority in the President's fiscal year 2016 budget.

The irony that NIOSH buildings are in such states of disrepair is obvious. NIOSH, its dedicated employees, and the American workforce deserve better. By consolidating the existing campuses and upgrading the facilities, we can help advance and augment scientific collaboration among NIOSH researchers supporting research that improves worker and workplace safety. NIOSH's efforts are essential to American competitiveness and the prevention of work-related safety and health risks. We should be working to ensure that NIOSH has facilities sufficient to support the critical work it does to protect our workers.

We know that a healthy and safe workplace leads to a more productive and capable American workforce. New buildings would allow NIOSH to undertake the cutting-edge scientific research that forms the core of its public-health mission.

As OMB prepares to review the fiscal year 2016 budget for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), I request that OMB work with Secretary Burwell and the CDC to find and prioritize funding necessary to identify and acquire a new NIOSH facility in Cincinnati. I look forward to working with you on this important issue as well as other important issues in your new role as OMB Director. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
U.S. Senator

Cc: Secretary Sylvia Burwell, Department of Health and Human Services