



March 1, 2010

The Honorable Tom Harkin
U.S. Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

I would like this opportunity to address the recently released proposed Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Fiscal Year 2011 budget. As the CEO and President of a small business who participates in the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), I am concerned about the budget's restraints on cooperative programs.

While the proposed budget foresees a \$3 million decrease in funding for compliance assistance, Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis announced during a live chat that OSHA would take all funding away from VPP to redirect toward enforcement.

VPP is an important means by which OSHA helps to ensure that the safety and health of America's workers, as mandated by the OSH Act of 1970. Scott's Liquid Gold-Inc. employs around 70 American workers. We have been in business since 1951 and are a proud American manufacturer. I support the VPP, not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because it allows us to reach out to other companies and share our knowledge and educate them about VPP and its proven model of safety excellence. It is the one forum that we are on level ground with major manufacturing companies, many of whom do not produce products in the United States. Our employees are proud to be a VPP Star site and part of the reason is that they are being recognized by the federal government for having a commitment to safety as an employee.

VPP has proven to be OSHA's premier program, adding value to workplace safety and health by encouraging worksites to go beyond mere compliance. VPP sites are known for safety and health management systems that foster a strong safety and health culture, continuous improvement and partnerships among management, labor and government, which are fundamental to a dedicated workforce of over 900,000 employees across the U.S. Approximately 2,300 sites have achieved VPP, covering about 270 industries. These sites enjoy injury and illness rates that are at least 50 percent below their counterparts. Scott's Liquid Gold-Inc. has experienced a 92% decrease in TCIR rates since achieving VPP in 2003. We actively mentor other sites in our region and one of our employees participates on both the regional and national VPPPA board of directors and as an SGE, assisting OSHA with VPP onsite.

I am asking you to restore appropriations language for funding for VPP and the appropriate personnel level to carry out OSHA's mandate to protect the American worker by ensuring a safe workplace.

I would also like to extend an invitation for you or your staff to contact me at mgoldstein@slginc.com or 303-373-4860 and to visit some of the safest workplaces in your district and in the US. You'll have a chance to meet constituents who participate in VPP and understand what motivates us to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Goldstein".

Mark Goldstein
President and CEO

4880 HAVANA STREET, P.O. BOX 39-S, DENVER, CO 80239-0019 • TELEPHONE 303-373-4860 • FAX 303-576-6151

SUBSIDIARIES: SLG Chemicals, Inc. • Neoteric Cosmetics, Inc. • Colorado Product Concepts, Inc. • Advertising Promotions Inc. • SLG Plastics, Inc.

www.scott's-liquid-gold.com and www.touch-of-scent.com