

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer:

We write to you today to share our overwhelming support for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) proposed rule to prevent occupational heat injury and illness. We request an update on this rulemaking and the scheduled hearings in June, and urge you to finalize this rule without weakening the protections included in the proposed rule.

Heat is the leading cause of death among all weather conditions in the United States. In the workplace, extreme heat causes disorientation, heat stress, heat stroke, and even death. In fact, between 2011 and 2022, 479 workers have died and 33,890 workers throughout the nation have suffered work-related heat injuries and illnesses.¹ Because of the lack of robust reporting requirements, these numbers are expected to significantly underestimate the actual devastation extreme heat inflicts on American workers, which is preventable with interventions. Research also estimates that employers in the United States are losing \$100 billion in heat-induced lost labor productivity every year.²

On August 30, 2024, OSHA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings. This was a critical step towards strong worker protections from hot working conditions which, when implemented, would save lives and contribute to a more productive workforce. This standard, consistent with recommendations from heat stress experts, industrial hygienists, workers, employers, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, would establish an objective, science-based definition of what constitutes extreme heat and clarify employer responsibilities and the steps necessary to protect employees from hazardous heat in the workplace.

Workers on the front lines of extreme heat put food on our tables, build our homes and offices, deliver our mail and packages, and make sure our roads are safe to drive on and our planes are safe to fly.

Please send us a detailed update on the work OSHA has been doing to promulgate lifesaving heat safety protections and resist any efforts to stall or weaken these proposed lifesaving standards. Strong, evidence-based, standardized rules that raise the floor for everyone are essential to our workers' safety and economic productivity.

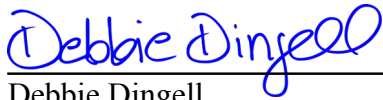
Sincerely,


Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress

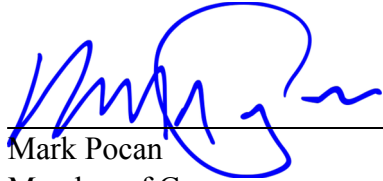

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.osha.gov/heat-exposure/rulemaking/background>

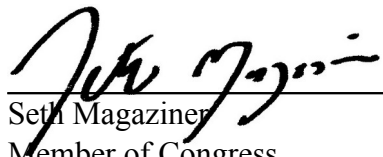
² <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Extreme-Heat-Report-2021.pdf>



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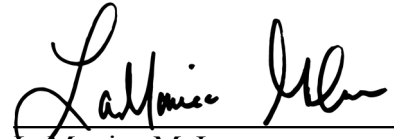
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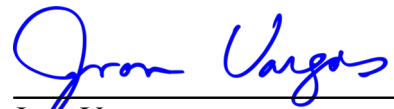
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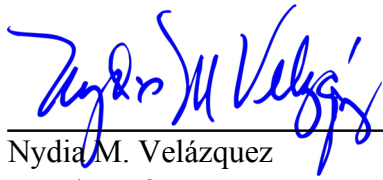
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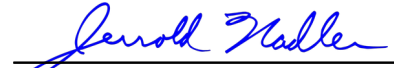
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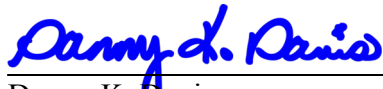
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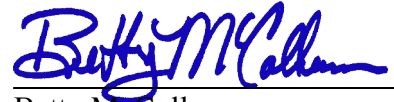
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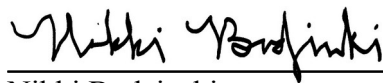
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