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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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HEALTH
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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515

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July 26, 2021

James Frederick
Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Frederick:

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has long been the principal government authority ensuring the health and safety of millions of hardworking men and women. When new workplace safety concerns arise, OSHA has upgraded and adapted their guidelines and standards to address these new issues and investigated potential violations of these safety standards.

Companies should be held to the highest standard to guarantee that their employees receive proper protections when working in dangerous environments. OSHA has a responsibility to ensure that companies provide adequate protection for their workers and comply with stringent safety regulations.

On July 16, 2021, Khaled Saleh Nasser, an employee of AK Steel, UAW member, and a constituent of Michigan's 12th District, passed away at 3:15 A.M. after a fall from an elevated catwalk on site. Cleveland-Cliffs, the parent company of AK Steel, has stated that Mr. Nasser was conducting maintenance at the time of the fall. His death has drawn serious questions about working conditions at the facility and the need to ensure that these workers are safe.

The Cleveland-Cliffs Dearborn Works facility employed 1,325 people as of last year and Mr. Nasser's death highlights credible fears and concerns that more must be done to protect these workers.

I request that OSHA conduct a full and thorough investigation into the workplace safety standards and workplace management policies of this site. This investigation should include addressing concerns highlighted by union and community members, employees, and others. Additionally, I request the following from OSHA upon the completion of this investigation:

1. A detailed explanation of the current safety protocols for workers at this site, any potential concerns, and the necessary actions that Cleveland-Cliffs must take in order to comply with safety standards.
2. The process and frequency in which OSHA investigates and conducts reviews of current worker protection policies at these sites to ensure that companies continue to comply with current safety regulations.
3. Any history of complaints to workplace safety at this site and subsequent investigations by OSHA.

It is crucial that we take cogent steps to ensure the protection of our workers, and that any subsequent investigation into potential violations is timely and takes immediate action to abate worker safety concerns.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Dingell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

CC: Mr. Bart Pickelman, Director, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA)