

## CALIFORNIA INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COUNCIL



March 20, 2009

Assemblyman Ira Ruskin  
State Capitol, Room 3123  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: SUPPORT FOR AB 790 (RUSKIN) STATE SCIENTISTS**

On behalf of the California Industrial Hygiene Council (CIHC) I am writing to inform you of our support for your AB 790 related to State Scientists salaries.

On April 28, 2008, the Dept of Personnel Administration determined that fourteen classifications of state scientist supervisory employees should be adjusted to correlate with similar engineering salaries because of "like work, like pay". One of these classifications is the Senior Industrial Hygienist. Cal/OSHA made a similar finding in early 2008 for this position and went ahead and reclassified all Senior Industrial Hygienists to Senior Safety Engineers. While we commend Cal/OSHA's early recognition of the "like pay, like work" concept, we reject their diminishing the rank, title and historic nature of industrial hygiene by essentially eliminating this position title.

Many other state agencies employ Senior Industrial Hygienists (Dept of Toxic Substance Control, State Water Resources Control Board, Dept of Fish and Game, Dept of Justice, Dept of Corrections, Youth Authority, Dept of Pesticide Regulation) who have been effectively discriminated against by Cal/OSHA's action. AB 790 will support the title and profession of Industrial Hygiene while recognizing the pay disparity. CIHC's mission to promote the profession of industrial hygiene is well served by this bill which will rightly recognize the important contribution of senior industrial hygienists throughout the state.

The CIHC was founded in 1990 to establish a legislative presence in California representing the Industrial Hygiene profession, and is affiliated with the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), a 12,000 member organization. The field of Industrial Hygiene is dedicated to the anticipation, recognition, evaluation, and control of occupational and environmental health hazards. CIHC represents the five Local Sections of AIHA in California and its mission is to bring good science to the legislative and/or regulatory table which impacts the health of workers and the public.

Sincerely,

Catherine Barankin  
CIHC Director of Public Policy

