



Leo W. Gerard
International President

August 12, 2016

Mr. Joseph A. Main
Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health
Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)
1100 Wilson Boulevard, 21st Floor
Arlington, VA 22209-3939

Dear Mr. Main:

On behalf of the United Steelworkers International Union (USW), we extend our sincere congratulations to the Mine Health and Safety Academy as you celebrate the 40th anniversary.

The USW represents miners in more than 100 mines and MSHA-covered operations in the United States. Our members in these mines benefit greatly from the works achieved at the Mine Health and Safety Academy. The Academy has inspired innovation and safety improvements for mining safety. Thanks to the dedicated staff, these innovations are seen in mines today, not only in the United States, but around the world. Today the conditions of mines are drastically improved.

The efforts put forth to protect miners remains challenging. As the capacity and output at our mining operations grow, the hazards that face miners remain and in many cases become more prevalent. These hazards are controlled with engineering controls, proactive regulation, the systems of safety and the education of miners. All this is the foundation of the Academy's role in miner safety.

I thank each of you for the part that you have played in this success. The staff of the National Mine Health and Safety Academy has the vision, the knowledge and the wherewithal to continue to pave our way into the future for decades to come. Your dedication is truly our inspiration to improve the working conditions and increase safety for miners. Assistant Secretary Main and all of the MSHA staff have contributed greatly to the accomplishments made.

In solidarity,

Leo W. Gerard
International President