

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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April \_\_, 2004

The Honorable Robert Byrd  
United States Senate  
311 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-4801  
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Dear Senator Byrd:

Thank you so much for all you have done to help mine safety engineer Jack Spadaro, and, because of his long career of good works, all West Virginians.

I write to ask you to please act quickly to pressure the Office of Special Counsel to complete its investigation of charges Jack Spadaro filed against the Mine Safety and Health Administration. One of the charges is three years old! In 2001, as *60 Minutes* recently reported, Mr. Spadaro filed charges that Bush administration officials obstructed a full investigation into the Martin County Coal sludge disaster. Jack's second complaint, filed in July 2003, alleges that thousands of dollars in not-for-bid contracts went unethically to longtime friends of MSHA Director David Lauriski and deputies Gerry Silver and Ben Sheppard.

**I hope you will pressure the OSC to grant a stay of MSHA's demotion of Mr. Spadaro, which is supposed to take effect April 25.** The demotion is on outrage! Jack should be granted full protection while the OSC investigation is completed. Demotion to a place five hours from his decades-long home does not equal protection!

I believe Jack Spadaro should be re-instated as director of the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Academy. At the very least, he should be granted a stay while OSC conducts a full and fair investigation of all of his charges.

As you know, under the Bush administration, MSHA has retaliated against Mr. Spadaro's whistleblowing with some inane allegations. Press accounts have detailed the charges against Mr. Spadaro, including twenty-six dollars in credit card fees, which were repaid, and labor-management disputes, which were resolved. Many MSHA employees have been charged with much more egregious infractions than those Mr. Spadaro faces, yet those employees were able to keep their jobs.

MSHA's actions against Mr. Spadaro are unconscionable. I thank you again for your work on his behalf.

Sincerely yours,