

Name: _____
Address: _____

January 13, 2004

Secretary Elaine Chao
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave.
Washington, DC 20210

Honorable Secretary Elaine Chao,

I write asking you to please reinstate Mr. Jack Spadaro as the superintendent of the National Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beckley, W. Va. I am very upset that the Mine Safety and Health Administration placed Mr. Spadaro on administrative leave this summer and has recently notified him he will soon be fired.

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.

I believe the charges against Mr. Spadaro have little, if any, credence. It seems apparent that MSHA is retaliating against Mr. Spadaro because he is a whistleblower who has pointed out corruption within his own agency. Retaliation against a whistleblower by his or her own agency is apparently illegal under the Whistleblower Protection law.

Mr. Spadaro has over thirty years of experience in mine safety and inspection. By doing his job well and with conviction, he has gained the trust of many coalfield residents and miners.

MSHA's actions against Mr. Spadaro are unconscionable. Please reinstate him to his position as the superintendent of the National Mine Health and Safety Academy at once. Please, bring back Jack! Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,