



# Rensselaer County Legislature

## Office of the Minority

May 3, 2007

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### **FASOLDT URGES SUPPORT FOR "PROTECTING AMERICA'S WORKERS ACT"**

Workers Memorial Day-- a day to honor the thousands of workers who are killed or hurt on the job each year -- was observed recently. Ironically, the day of recognition came shortly after a *New York Times* article revealed how the Bush administration has placed worker safety "in the hands of industry."

According to the *Times*, under President Bush, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) "has killed dozens of existing and proposed regulations and delayed adopting others." For the past six years, the Bush administration has ignored the need for updated safety and health protections.

Increased enforcement and improved standards are needed. Health and safety standards are out of date or nonexistent for many workplace hazards. Millions of workers still are not covered by the OSH Act and lack even the most basic safety and health protections.

More than three decades ago, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, promising every worker the right to a safe job. Workplace safety has greatly improved since OSHA regulation began more than three decades ago, but there is still more to be done.

Protecting America's Workers Act would expand OSHA protections to millions of uncovered workers, enhance whistleblower protections and substantially increase penalties for serious, willful and criminal safety violations.

In 2007, every American worker deserves the promise of a safe job. Congress needs to act on the Protecting America's Workers Act, S. 1244 and H.R. 2049. Readers should contact their senators and representative to co-sponsor the bill.

Sincerely,

Flora Fasoldt, Health Committee  
Rensselaer County Legislature

*"Say NO To Drugs"*

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