

# “The Washington Buzz”



**Yuma Pacific/SW  
Local Section**

**San Diego, CA**

**January 23, 2015**

# The Budget



- **FY 15 Enacted**      **\$552.8 m (\$565 m)**

## **Notable –**

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>+ \$215,000</b> | <b>Federal Enforcement</b>  |
| <b>+ \$500,000</b> | <b>Whistleblower</b>        |
| <b>+ \$950,000</b> | <b>State Programs</b>       |
| <b>- \$1 M</b>     | <b>Fed Compliance Asst.</b> |

- **Riders:**      **Emphasis Programs**  
**Silica Science**

# The Budget



- **FY 15 Enacted      \$334.9 m    (\$281 m)**

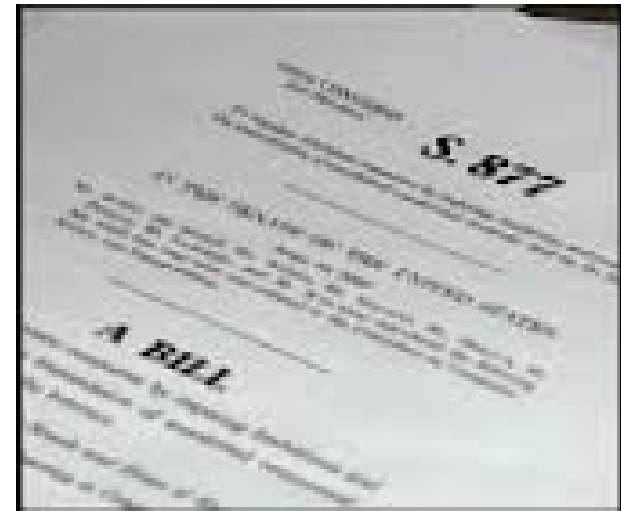
**Notable –**

**\$114,000,000      NORA Funding**

**ERC Funding Continued**

# A Quick Look Back

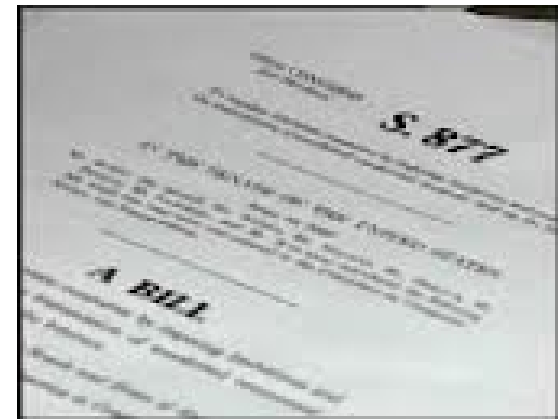
- **OSHA Reform**
- **Recordkeeping – Site Specific**
- **VPP Codification**
- **Safe Patient Handling**
- **Combustible Dust**
- **Logging Operations**



**All Likely Re-Introduced –  
Passage in 2015 – No Way!**

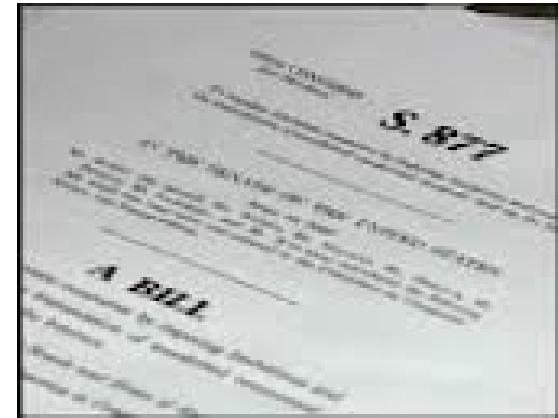
# Early Congressional Action

- **Regulatory Reform –**
  - **Less Burdensome Alt.**
  - **Base on Cost**
  - **Review Existing**
- **Site Specific Recording**
- **Congressional Rules**
  - **Estimate Number of Regs**



# Congressional Options

- **Oversight Hearings**
  - Expect Plenty
- **Budget Riders**
  - Stop Specific Issues
- **CRA**
- **Work to Stop Guidelines**



# OSHA Activity – The Biggies!

**Crystalline Silica –**

**#1 Priority of OSHA**

**OSHA and White House –  
“This WILL Happen”**

**Confined Spaces in Construction –  
Final 3/15?**

# OSHA Activity – The Biggies!

## **Beryllium –**

**Sent to White House for Review**

**NPRM – 01/15 Oops!**

## **Electronic Recordkeeping –**

**Lots of Opposition - Doubtful**



# Other OSHA Activity

## **Infectious Diseases Rule –**

**Small Business Review Complete  
Recommend Starting Over?**

## **Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs)**

- OSHA Publishes Annotated Tables**
- FACOSH**
- RFI**

**Tough Nut to Crack! Likely Years Away If Then!**

# Doubtful OSHA Activity

- **Injury & Illness Prevention Program (I2P2)**
- **Combustible Dust**
- **MSD Recording**

And –

**Safe Patient Handling**

**Safety Incentives**

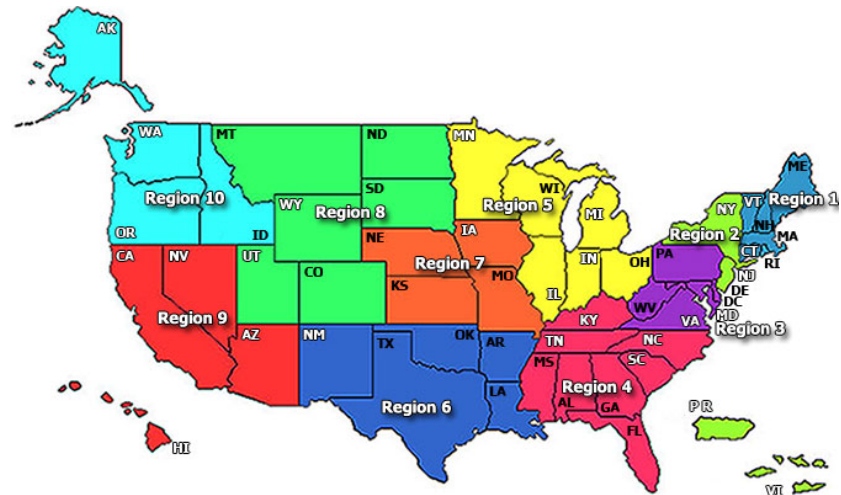
**Abatement During Citations**



# The Leader in OS&H

## *The States!*

- Half with State Plans
- Issues –
  - VPP
  - Safe Patient handling
  - Mold Remediation
  - Confined Spaces
  - Abatement Issues
  - Heat Stress
  - Exposure Limits
  - *Caution* – Budgets!



# Here's The Problem

## Industry

- **Cost is too High!**

## Labor

- **Regulations Not Tough Enough!**

## Both Are Wrong

- ✓ **Will Cost Really Make a Difference?**
- ✓ **Something is Better Than Nothing!**

# Washington

- **Washington's Inability to Lead**
- **November Election Impact**
  - Senate – House
  - Guidelines
  - Budget Riders
  - CRA
- **2016 Election**
- **OSHA & Others**
  - Funding



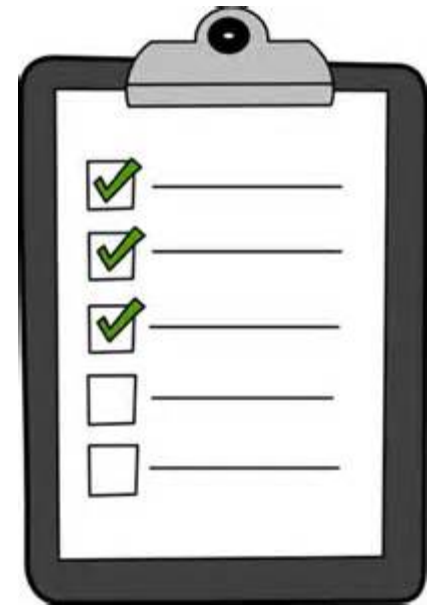
# AIHA – Top Public Policy Issues

## General issues –

- 1) PELs Update
- 2) Risk Assessment
- 3) Confined Spaces

## Specific Individual Hazards

- 1) Combustible Dust
- 2) Silica
- 3) Noise/Hearing Protection



# AIHA – Top Public Policy Issues

## Legislative issues –

- 1) PELs Update
- 2) Appropriations (OSHA, NIOSH. etc)
- 3) Combustible Dust

## General Association Issues

- 1) Professional Ethics
- 2) National Standards
- 3) Laboratory Accreditation



# There Are Positives

**Congress – Founding Fathers were Right!**  
*It's Supposed To Take Time*

**OSHA – Ergo, IAQ,**  
*Regulations and Standards Not Always Needed*

**H&S Professionals – You are Doing the Job!!**  
*Workers Are Protected*

**Lemonade from Lemons**  
*Budget Cuts Present Opportunities*  
*Shortage of Needed Professionals*



# Reality



***“To Those Who Think of Politics Simply as a Game – They Don’t Understand That It’s The Most Important Game Our Country Is Involved With, Every Day.”***

# Thanks!

**And Remember –**

***“You Can’t Escape Politics –  
You Either Play or Be Played.”***



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