

August 20, 2018

Jonathan C. Ball
Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst
State Capitol Complex
House Building, Suite W310
Post Office Box 145310
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Re: Annual Financial Report for Eddie P. Mayne Workplace Safety and Occupational Health Funding Program

Dear Mr. Ball:

Please accept this letter as the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health's report on The Eddie P. Mayne Workplace Safety and Occupational Health Account which was established within the Utah State budget in 2008 (G.S.). This funding was extended in the 2018 session SB14, "Industrial Accident Restricted Account Sunset) with budgeting in SB1, "Higher Education Base Budget," (2018 G.S.). Funding for 2017 was \$165,000.00.

The purpose of this legislative initiative was to assist in maintaining and advancing Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety in the State of Utah by the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH) at the University of Utah.

Last year, the RMCOEH underwent a competitive national application for its main training grant from the Centers for Disease Control/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. A panel of thirty-one national experts rated the RMCOEH as the best Center in this head-to-head competition with Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Michigan. We are pleased to report that this resulted in a successful renewal of the grant – approximately \$7.4 million over the five-year period of the grant!

A recent advancement that is a direct result of this funding is the initiation of the State's first undergraduate training program in Occupational Safety and Health currently a minor in the University of Utah College of Health starting Fall 2018. The RMCOEH is currently assisting in marketing and promoting this program to undergraduate students. We have plans to develop this undergraduate minor into a major. We also use the Eddie P. Mayne Workplace Safety and Occupational Health funds to help perform extensive Outreach services to help >1,000 Utah business with Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety problems annually.

Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health Background:

The Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH) is one of the eighteen national Education and Research Centers sponsored by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). It was established at the University of Utah in 1977 and has been funded continuously by major NIOSH grants since 1978. Its mission is "Protecting the worker and the environment through interdisciplinary education, research, and service."

Through training graduate students in occupational safety and health disciplines, providing short courses to enable these professionals to maintain and advance their capabilities, and research, the RMCOEH helps provide Utah with

a healthy and safer workforce that makes Utah businesses more competitive through reductions in workplace injuries and diseases that otherwise would cost businesses higher workers' compensation costs. For example, our graduates directly work to address the nation's occupationally related illnesses and injuries that cost more than \$240 billion annually, equal to the cost of heart disease or cancer. Each *day*, 9,000 of the nation's workers sustain disabling injuries on the job and 137 people die from work-related illnesses. Thankfully these numbers are slowly trending down. The efforts of professionals who have completed RMCOEH programs help prevent the daily toll of such illnesses and injuries in Utah's workers.

The Rocky Mountain Center trains graduate students (masters and PhD) in industrial hygiene, hazardous substances, occupational injury prevention, occupational medicine, and ergonomics and safety. There have been 663 graduates since the inception of the center, and surveys of our graduates demonstrate that all our former graduates rate our programs as "excellent" or "very good" in preparing them for their careers. We also conduct over 180 Continuing Education Courses and other outreach activities annually with over 5,000 participants to update and improve the existing OSH programs managed by these professionals in Utah's businesses.

The RMCOEH additionally contributes to Utah's knowledge-based economy through major research projects that develop new and innovative methods to reduce the burden of occupational injuries. Current involvement in such research projects is approximately \$2 million a year. These projects include major investigations of truck drivers health and risk of crashes, common musculoskeletal disorders (carpal tunnel syndrome, low back pain, shoulder tendinitis, etc.), and particulate air exposures. Additionally, we have major expertise in chemical/biological/nuclear terrorism preparedness, and our faculty has worked with the Department of Health to lead the development of the state's Medical Surge Capacity Plan, and another plan for a Regional Homeland Defense Medical Center for such untoward events.

The RMCOEH is involved in extensive outreach efforts to businesses that include assistance to over 2,000 Utah businesses and government agencies annually. This assistance includes consultations to provide education to healthcare.

We would welcome an invitation to appear before a legislative committee to present this report or answer any questions legislators may have about RMCOEH or occupational health and safety issues in Utah. If you have any additional questions, please contact me or the financial administrator for the RMCOEH, Ms. Sheri Carp at 801.581.3532.

Sincerely,



Kurt T. Hegmann, MD, MPH
Center Director and Professor
Dr. Paul S. Richards Endowed Chair in
Occupational Safety and Health

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cc:

Spencer Pratt, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Sean Faherty, Legislative Fiscal Analyst

Eddie P. Mayne Workplace Safety Fund 2017 Financials

2017 Revenues

Carryforward from 2016	\$ 9,946.34
State Appropriations	\$ 165,000.00

Total Revenue	\$ 174,946.34
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2017 Expenditures

Faculty Salaries/Benefits	Hegmann, Handy, Wood, D'Entremont and Ott	\$ 68,837.00
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Staff Salaries/Benefits	Bradakis, Boeger, Rees, Reiser, and Ostler	\$ 64,309.00
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Other Services	3,073.00
Office Supplies	2,289.00
Computer Services	419.00
Printing/Photocopying	210.77
Shipping	83.36

Total Expenditures	\$ 139,221.13
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*Revenues and expenditures for this annual report are based on a calendar year, January through December 2017. The university financial reporting is based on a fiscal year, July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018. The balance from 2017 was expensed in 2018.