

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 1, 2017

The Honorable Dorothy Dougherty  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
200 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Honorable Dougherty:

Thank you for your offices recent response to my February 15, 2017 request that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) investigate reports issued in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel regarding the handling of chemical and hazardous waste by Greif, Inc., including at Mid-America Steel Drum Company, Inc. sites in Milwaukee, St. Francis and Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

I understand OSHA opened an inspection of the 2300 W. Cornell Street, Milwaukee Mid-America Steel Drum facility on October 27, 2016. On April 12, 2017 OSHA served Mid-America Steel Drum citation and notification of penalty for multiple serious violations for exposing workers to chemical and heat-related burns, toxic gases, dangerous noise levels, risk of falls, and other hazards that pose risks to the neighborhood. These citations confirm the allegations laid out by a whistleblower who worked in these facilities and the reporting done by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Further, they indicate willful decisions on the part of management to ignore known threats and continue to operate with unsafe practices for years.

I write today to express my ongoing concern for the safety of workers and neighbors of the other Mid-America Steel Drum facilities located in Wisconsin that have not been recently inspected by OSHA. The fact that inspection of the 2300 W. Cornell Street facility confirmed whistleblower reports demands that OSHA thoroughly inspect the other Mid-America Steel Drum facilities that were part of the allegations outlined in media reports. I urge you to expand your inspections to include Grief facilities in St. Francis and Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

These reports are extremely troubling and must be fully responded to immediately. Please engage with Grief employees to ensure that they understand their rights under federal law and have access to health information to address questions that these accounts have raised. In addition, I urge you to look into the alleged patterns of willful violations of federal law. The handling of hazardous waste is a difficult task and it is highly regulated because of the toxicity of the chemicals and potential for grave harm. In addition to the impact to public health, skirting these essential protections is unfair to companies that work to do the right thing for their workers.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator