

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 15, 2017

The Honorable Dorothy Dougherty
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary Dougherty:

We write to urge you to investigate accounts of mishandling 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. Both the allegations laid out by a whistleblower who worked in these facilities, filed with the SEC on June 27, 2016, and recent reporting done by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel describe serious and willful violations of occupational safety and health laws and regulations. This situation merits your immediate attention and we are calling on you to investigate apparent violation of federal laws and to determine if there are federal resources available to help workers who may have been impacted by hazardous chemicals.

Both the filing and the media coverage describe severe workplace hazards that regularly put the lives and health of workers at risk. These accounts describe willful decisions on the part of management to ignore these threats, and they document injuries, disease, and even fatalities in the workplace. Further, the reports suggest that even though the facilities were cited for violations of workplace safety requirements, they continued to operate with unsafe practices for years.

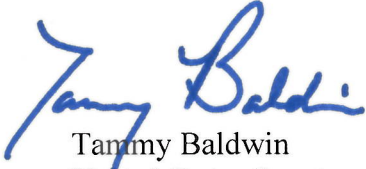
The filing suggests serious violations of OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS). It documents several incidents of employee on-the-job injuries at Grief's Container Life Cycle Management (CLCM) facilities. Moreover, it describes the mishandling of concerns raised to Grief and CLCM management by a Grief safety representative. Specifically, the report cites an incident in which a CLCM safety representative documented concerns about the hazardous situation at Milwaukee's CLCM plant via email to a member of Grief's upper management. The safety representative was instructed not to document these issues via email in the future, due to the trail of documentation it would create.

These reports are extremely troubling and must be responded to immediately. We urge you to engage with Grief employees to ensure that they understand their rights under federal law and have access to health information to address questions these accounts will undoubtedly raise.

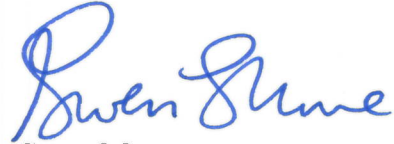
In addition, we urge you to look into the alleged patterns of willful violations of federal law. The handling of hazardous waste is a difficult task and it is highly regulated because of the toxicity of the chemicals and potential for grave harm. In addition to the impact to public health, skirting these 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. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Tammy Baldwin in blue ink.

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Gwen Moore in blue ink.

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress