Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 23, 2023

Assistant Secretary Douglas L. Parker Occupational Safety and Health Administration

200 Constitution Avenue

Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Assistant Secretary Parker:

We are alarmed by the growing reports from workers, particularly women, who are sharing disturbing testimonials about their lack of access to adequate bathroom facilities at their place of work. We request OSHA assess the adequacy of current sanitation standards and to evaluate the extent to which workers actually have prompt access to bathroom facilities.

While OSHA requires employers to provide all workers with sanitary and immediately-available restrooms to ensure that workers do not suffer adverse health effects, we've learned that's not the case for many workers across industries. Women working on construction sites have reported limiting their intake of liquids during the workday or habitually delaying use of the bathroom to avoid having to walk to a facility off-site, or of having to wait in long lines during breaks. We know this problem extends beyond construction workers, to workers in poultry or meat processing facilities, warehouses, farmworkers, and many more.

An assessment of current sanitation standards will make American job sites more accessible for all, including women and those with medical conditions and disabilities.

We believe workers should not have to compromise their dignity to make a living. We implore you to take swift and meaningful steps to conduct oversight of sufficient access to adequate sanitary facilities in historically male-dominated industries.

Workers everywhere, across all industries should have their basic human rights met.

Sincerely,

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Nikki Budzinski Member of Congress

Page 2

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