

January 13, 2023

Chairman James A. Leftwich, Jr.  
Pochontas Building, Room W232  
900 East Main Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Support of House Bill 1392

Dear Chairman Leftwich,

I am writing to you today in support of HB 1392, a bill that would require long-needed regulatory amendments to the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Program (VOSH) regarding the use of cranes and derricks in construction, maritime, and industrial operations.

In the past decade, OSHA-reportable crane accidents resulted in more than 20 serious worker injuries and/or fatalities in Virginia. More than half of the Commonwealth's crane-related accidents are due to workers being forced to operate too close to the crane's load. Future fatalities and injuries could be prevented if the appropriate load stabilization technology were permitted for use on industrial, ports, and construction work sites.

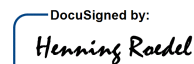
Currently, cranes are required to use a tag line, which is a rope tended by a rigger and attached to a lifted load. The tag line, in theory, is used to control load spinning and/or pendular motions, or to stabilize a bucket or magnets during materials-handling operations. The fundamental concept of using tag lines to stabilize loads has not changed since the invention of cranes in Ancient Greece.

As innovation advancements in industrial and construction technologies, training, and worker safety continue to emerge, current state and federal laws and regulations must keep up to reflect this progress.

HB 1392 is a simple but much-needed change to the Commonwealth's Administrative Code. It will allow proven active load stabilization mechanisms and technologies to be used to greatly reduce or eliminate incidents of hazardous or potentially lethal crane load rotations. More importantly, SB 1392 helps provide for a safer operating environment for myriad construction, maritime, and industrial worksites across the Commonwealth.

I look forward to your support of HB 1392.

Thank you,

DocuSigned by:  


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