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March 4, 2026

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer:

We write again to request meaningful answers to important questions regarding the extent to which the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) of the U.S. Department of Labor is overseeing coal operators that elect to self-insure their black lung liabilities.

We sent a letter to you on November 24, 2025 (attached for your convenience), in response to stakeholder reports that OWCP is failing to enforce its 2024 final rule on collateral requirements for self-insured coal operators.¹ That rule requires self-insured coal operators to reserve a sufficient amount of collateral so that their liabilities would not be shifted onto American taxpayers in the event that the operators collapse and enter bankruptcy protection.² Our letter posed several questions intended to ensure that the public is fully informed about the current governance of the black lung self-insurance program.

In response to our letter to you, we received a letter dated January 14, 2026, from OWCP Director James R. Macy. Regrettably, Mr. Macy's letter did not address our questions about whether the stakeholder reports are accurate and, if so, what policies are currently being applied to self-insured operators. Instead, it merely pointed to an item in DOL's semi-annual regulatory agenda announcing that OWCP intends to explore alternatives to the 2024 final rule.³

Please follow up with a letter that is fully responsive to the questions we posed in the later dated November 24, 2025. To ensure a thorough reply, please repeat our questions and then provide an answer immediately below each restated question to which it is responsive.

¹ Black Lung Benefits Act: Authorization of Self-Insurers, 89 Fed. Reg. 100,304 (Dec. 12, 2024).

² *Id.*

³ *Black Lung Benefits Act: Authorization of Self Insurers*, REGINFO.GOV, <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202504&RIN=1240-AA16> (last visited Mar. 4, 2026).

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer

March 4, 2026

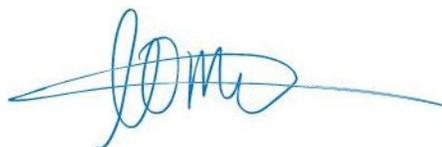
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We request these answers by March 18, 2026. Please send all official correspondence and information related to these requests to the Committee's Democratic staff at EWDOversight@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Ranking Member



Ilhan Omar
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Workforce Protections

cc: James R. Macy, Director,
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs