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Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 4:06 PM

To: Jay Withrow <jay.withrow@doli.virginia.gov>

Subject: Re: Heat Illness Prevention Advisory Panel Meeting 3 - Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 9AM - SMALL GROUPS REPORT BACK

Hi Jay,

On behalf of the Virginia Loggers Association, we would like to submit our thoughts on the heat illness prevention advisory work.

We will be travelling next week and not sure whether it will be possible to participate in my small group (#4).

VLA is a trade association made up of workers engaged in harvesting our forests, processing trees into useful paper and wood products, and many supporting businesses.

VLA applauds the work of DOLI in keeping workers safe and healthy. VLA has been fortunate to have DOLI submit articles on safety in our magazines until recently.

The following describes our thoughts on pursuing regulations for heat illness in workers.

- Virginia climate and work environments would be a better choice for models than western states.
- Suggest DOLI review existing Virginia business conditions and use findings in VA for developing regulations.
- All businesses in our industry provide potable water and ways for employees to cool down if needed.
- Suggest COV give business owners extensive latitude for judgment calls in any future regulations.
- Suggest practicable solutions for small family-owned business owners to keep costs down.
- Provide a suite of ways and tools for employers to prevent and handle heat illness issues and allow them to choose which options are best for their work environments.
- Most small family-owned businesses have limited staff and most take on multiple responsibilities. We ask that DOLI not make burdensome administrative requirements, but instead keep it simple.
- Instead of regulations now, we suggest DOLI provide general guidelines on keeping employees subject to heat contact as safe as possible. Allow businesses to make the best decisions.
- If this non regulatory approach does not work, DOLI can review this approach again.
- By keeping a voluntary approach to using best management practices to prevent heat illness, DOLI will still have a role but much less than a full-scale regulatory way.
- VLA believes business owners will buy in much better and take a responsible role to prevent heat illness issues in their employees.

Thank you.

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We work in an industry responsibly using renewable natural forest resources while helping people and the environment!

The Virginia Loggers Association proudly endorses Forestry Mutual Insurance as the preferred provider of Virginia worker's compensation insurance. Contact Chris Huff at chuff@forestrymutual.com or 919 - 810 - 9485.