AUPOHS respectfully requests that you include $24 million for the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (AFF) Program in the Fiscal Year 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill.

Workers in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries are up to 32 times more likely to die on the job than workers in other industries.¹

CDC’s National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (AFF) program is the ONLY substantive federal program working to ensure safe working conditions for 5.5 million workers in some of our nation’s most dangerous and important production sectors.

No federally appropriated funds were used to prepare this document.

FEBRUARY 2015
SUCCESS STORY > ROLLOVER PROTECTION SYSTEM (ROPS)

THE PROBLEM
Tractor incidents remain the leading cause of death and injury among farm workers. Approximately 125 workers die in tractor overturn incidents each year. 4

THE SOLUTION
The AFF program has retrofitted unprotected tractors with 1,315 ROPS in New York alone. ROPS are the only proven method for preventing deaths and injuries in tractor rollover events. In more than 100 recorded incidents, farmers who had installed ROPS suffered no injuries. A NIOSH tractor safety project in New York saved more than $3.75 for every dollar invested. 5

“I was pulling a silage wagon and the tractor began sliding down the hill backwards out of control. I had taken advantage of NYCAMH’s ROPS rebate program to install a rollbar and seatbelt, which I was wearing at the time. It’s amazing I didn’t roll over, but I probably would have been thrown from the tractor if I hadn’t been wearing the seatbelt. I wear it all the time now.”

ROPS program participant

SUCCESS STORY > WORKER SAFETY IN COMMERCIAL FISHING

THE PROBLEM
Commercial fishing has been the deadliest profession in the U.S. for 7 of the last 9 years. Vessel disasters and falls overboard are the leading cause of death and account for 82% of fatal cases. 7 Of the 191 deaths from falls overboard only one victim was wearing a personal flotation device (PFD). 7

THE SOLUTION
Through strategic partnerships, AFF-funded programs have identified risk factors and developed targeted solutions for preventing injury or death, resulting in a 42% drop in fatalities for commercial fishermen in Alaska. 7 To address low usage of PFDs, a project was launched in collaboration with the US Coast Guard to develop PFD recommendations based on the needs of each unique fishery operation. Our collaboration with the US Coast Guard on improved survival drill training, and vessel stability exams has reduced fatalities among Bering Sea crab fishers by 60%. 8

“I was pleased to see the HSC Fishing Vessel Safety Project… materials relate to the people who own and operate commercial fishing vessels in the Gulf of Mexico. The project produced some great tools. I know if they are widely used by the commercial fishing vessel operators they will certainly reduce the number of serious collisions.”

Troy Rentz
USCG Thirteenth District Fishing Vessel Safety ACSA Coordinator

8 National Institute of Occupational Safety Health. Commercial Fishing Incident Database.