



January 18, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) members that manufacture NIOSH-approved respirators recently met with your COVID-19 Task Force to discuss further efforts ISEA members can take to help your Administration to end this pandemic. ISEA members are companies that design, test, manufacture and supply personal protective equipment (PPE).

The safety equipment industry supports 345,000 total jobs and generates economic activity of more than \$71.6 billion. Most importantly, more than 111.1 million workers, many of them union members, across the U.S. are protected by our safety equipment.

Americans want to know their mask will provide the most protection from the Omicron variant. Current news stories demonstrate this is on the minds of the public. As your Administration rolls-out a national plan to provide “high-quality” respirators to Americans who want them, and as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updates its guidance on respirators, there are a few simple actions you can take to significantly boost these efforts.

Mr. President, ISEA respectfully urges you to wear a NIOSH-approved respirator and establish an internal policy, or issue an executive order, urging those in your Administration to always and only use N95 respirators. Your leadership on this issue, and the leadership of those in your Administration, will broadcast a strong signal, make Americans aware of the most protective masks, which are NIOSH-approved respirators, and reinforce prevailing mask science.

ISEA and its members are ready to assist you and all elected officials to further strengthen the protection of all. Please feel free to contact me at sgardner@safetyequipment.org or at (202) 550-3309 to further discuss these matters.

Sincerely,

Stephen Gardner

Stephen Gardner
Interim President and CEO