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From: **Jerry Sheets**

Date: Wed, Jul 7, 2021 at 4:49 PM

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Final Permanent Standard

To: <[princy.doss@doli.virginia.gov](mailto:princy.doss@doli.virginia.gov)>

Hello Princy,

I'm reaching out to you on behalf of Utility Trailer Mfg in Atkins, VA. With over 1,000 employees at our location, we are one of the largest private employers in Southwest Virginia. Since the very beginning of the pandemic, Utility has been steadfast in our commitment to follow each guideline established by the CDC as well as Virginia's Final Permanent Standard. Respectfully now though, we find ourselves feeling the proposed FPS is too restrictive on employers as well as employees.

Utility would like to see the FPS revoked so that proper changes can be made in workplace protocols as conditions surrounding COVID-19 continue to improve in our region. But if revocation of the FPS proves unlikely, we urge the Board to at least reconsider its amendments and remove the requirement for daily prescreening of non-vaccinated employees. Employees are longing for anything that might be a sign of returning to a more normal and familiar workplace life. Life outside the workplace in Virginia is quickly returning to a sense of normalcy since the governor ended the state of emergency. You can feel the excitement everywhere you go. Having the workplace remain so rigid in its COVID-19 restrictions serves to exacerbate frustrations and anxieties people are feeling at work. With each passing week revealing less and less virus spread across Virginia, the value of prescreening comes into question in comparison to the frustrations employees feel about its continuing to be a requirement.

While having differing protocols in place for the vaccinated and the non-vaccinated employee might serve to motivate a person to get the vaccine, we would be remised not to recognize that it also creates an environment where tensions and divisiveness grows within the workplace. That is not an environment conducive to successful operations or peacefulness in the workplace,

Utility Trailer respectfully asks that the Board please consider removing the requirement for daily prescreening of non-vaccinated employees.

Sincerely,

Jerry Sheets

Plant Manager

Utility Trailer Mfg., Atkins VA