**Sample Letters to the Editor – Workers Memorial Day**

LTE #1

One hundred years ago, 146 workers, mostly young immigrant women, burned to death behind locked doors at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City.

I’d like to think that something so terrible could never happen today, but over the past year a series of major workplace tragedies proved me wrong. By now the names are infamous. The BP oil spill that killed eleven oil rig workers and caused an economic disaster for the Gulf Coast. The Massey Big Branch mine explosion in West Virginia that claimed 29 lives.

It’s also tempting to think that these disasters could never happen to us – and in fact, deaths in the workplace have fallen over the past ten years.

But unsafe working conditions still kill twelve people every day in our country. Here in [STATE], [XX] workers lost their lives last year. And as Republicans in Congress threaten to slash federal funding for workplace safety and roll back protections, that number will only increase.

Every April 28th, Workers Memorial Day, working families across the country remember the workers who were killed or injured at work and renew the struggle for safe workplaces. This year, let’s honor the fallen by asking our legislators to ensure that another tragedy won’t happen here.

LTE #2

The attacks on collective bargaining rights by Republican governors not only deprive workers of a voice on the job – they could threaten their health.

In [STATE], workers such as [sample occupations for state] can negotiate for safer working conditions through their unions. In many cases, a union contract is a worker’s only way to ensure their safety at work. And these contracts don’t just impact one workplace – they’re instrumental in setting standards for workplaces across [STATE].

On Workers Memorial Day, April 28th, we remember all of the workers who were killed or injured on the job last year. This year, with federal budget cuts threatening to cut safety inspections in our workplaces and the first anniversary of both the Gulf oil spill and the Massey Big Branch mine explosion, the commemoration is particularly poignant.

Instead of letting working people face injury and death on the jobs, we need to work together to address our budget shortfall – without jeopardizing our workers’ ability to speak up about dangerous workplaces and to bargain for respect and a better future.