

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 25, 2022

Assistant Secretary of Labor Douglas L. Parker  
Occupational Safety & Health Administration  
200 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Assistant Secretary Douglas Parker:

As elected representatives of thousands of warehouse workers in our districts, we write to request that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) open an investigation into Amazon over skyrocketing injury rates at its warehouses.

Analysis from a recently released report by New Jersey Policy Perspective (NJPP) shows that nationwide there was a 19.6% increase in the recordable injury rate at Amazon warehouses from 2020 to 2021 despite commitments from then-Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos to improve working conditions.<sup>1</sup> In New Jersey, these reports found a 54.3% increase in the injury rate over the same time frame.<sup>2</sup>

These statistics come on the heels of reports from the Strategic Organizing Center (SOC) about Amazon's dangerous work environment. The reports note that in 2021, Amazon workers endured nearly 40,000 injuries. While Amazon employed 33% of all warehouse workers in the United States in 2021, 49% of all warehouse worker injuries were Amazon workers.<sup>3</sup> Alarming, the reported serious injury rate was over double the rate of non-Amazon warehouses in 2021.<sup>4</sup> In 2020, the reported serious injury rate at Amazon was almost 80% higher than all other warehouse employers.<sup>5</sup> For perspective, Amazon's warehouse injury rate was more than double that of Walmart's in 2020.<sup>6</sup>

Specifically, we write to request that OSHA conduct an analysis of the following issues:

- Injury rates and citations/penalties involving e-commerce facilities within the warehousing sector, such as Amazon's, to determine if such facilities would warrant additional enforcement attention.
- The ways in which the growth in e-commerce has introduced new forms of work and new levels of health and safety risks to the warehousing sector.

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1 ["As Injury Rates at Amazon Rise Nationwide, Amazon Workers in New Jersey Pay a Heavy Toll." New Jersey Policy Perspective \(NJPP\) and Rutgers University, Page 1, April 27, 2022.](#)

2 "As Injury Rates at Amazon Rise Nationwide, Amazon Workers in New Jersey Pay a Heavy Toll," 3.

3 ["The Injury Machine: How Amazon's Production System Hurts Workers." Strategic Organizing Center \(SOC\), Page 1, April 2022.](#)

4 "The Injury Machine: How Amazon's Production System Hurts Workers."

5 ["Primed for Pain: Amazon's Epidemic of Workplace Injuries." Strategic Organizing Center \(SOC\), June 2021.](#)

6 "Primed for Pain: Amazon's Epidemic of Workplace Injuries."

- The long-term impact that these occupational injuries/illnesses have on workers, as serious injuries can result in lasting harms that could affect future employment.
- The ways in which the increasing use of robotic technology, highly regimented pace of work, and repetitive motions distinguish these facilities within the traditional warehousing sector.

Despite commitments by Jeff Bezos to make Amazon the “Earth’s Safest Place to Work,” reporting suggests that conditions for Amazon workers are worsening and are out of line with industry norms. As New Jersey representatives, we remember the Newark Wolf Muslin Undergarment Company fire in 1910 that killed dozens of garment workers just four months before the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in 1911. Since then, our country has made significant gains in worker safety, but it is critical to enforce these laws and build on these gains. Workers everywhere need a safe working environment, and OSHA plays an essential role in making this a reality.

Given the seriousness of this issue, we humbly request that you follow up regarding next steps within 90 days. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to additional details on how OSHA plans to pursue this crucial analysis.

Sincerely,



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Andy Kim  
Member of Congress