



For Immediate Release

Contact: Craig Orfield  
(202) 224-6770

**Tuesday, September 25, 2007**

***ENZI SUPPORTS OSHA ACTIONS TO ADDRESS CHEMICAL HAZARDS IN MICROWAVE POPCORN MANUFACTURING***

Washington, D.C. –U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today said the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is taking the right steps to address concerns regarding occupational exposure to diacetyl, the butter-flavored additive found in microwave popcorn.

“Employers, workers, and manufacturers alike need guidance to develop proper warning systems and labels to protect workers,” Enzi said. “I’m encouraged that OSHA has stepped up to the plate to conduct a comprehensive review ensuring that workers are fully protected. We need a science-based solution, not a hasty legislative quick-fix.”

Under certain conditions, exposure to diacetyl is now considered a risk for occupational lung disease. Yesterday, OSHA announced that it is taking three new actions to address concerns about diacetyl:

1. Initiating a rulemaking under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.
2. Issuing a Safety and Health Information Bulletin (SHIB), to provide information on health effects for workers exposed to diacetyl; information on exposure controls that may be used to reduce exposures to butter flavorings; and information on applicable OSHA standards.
3. Providing Hazard Communication Guidance, to alert employers, workers, manufacturers, and importers about new information related to the health hazards associated with diacetyl; and to provide guidance on how to develop material safety data sheets and hazard warning labels to be in compliance with OSHA’s Hazard Communication Standard.

####

