

COSTELLO MEDIA RELEASE

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Date: October 14, 2011

AFL-CIO Kremlin Statement False, Costello Seek Retraction

OKLAHOMA CITY – Oklahoma Labor Commissioner Mark Costello hand delivered a letter to AFL-CIO president Jimmy Curry to retract a statement in which Curry suggests the firing of several labor compliance officers indirectly lead to the Kremlin grain elevator accident. Costello asserted in his letter to Curry “your media statement is based on falsehoods and your failure to fact check evidences a blatant disregard for the truth.”

Costello wrote, “A cursory fact check would reveal the following: 1. **No** Labor Compliance Officer has been fired under my administration; 2. Labor Compliance Officers under state law have no authority to monitor safety operations of a business; and, 3. State OSHA under state law has authority only to offer **voluntary** safety consultation and **must be invited into the business**.”

“To link your political agenda by falsehoods to the incident that maimed two teenage boys is nothing more than an attempt to exploit a tragic accident to mislead the public. Surely, you can disagree with me on issues of policy without resorting to exploitation of this tragedy,” stated Costello.

Costello asked Curry to “publicly retract your statements that are false and misleading. Should you choose to let these known falsehoods stand, they will be recognized as statements that are intended to maliciously mislead the public. The citizens of Oklahoma and I eagerly await your retraction.”