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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PELLET FUELS INSTITUTE SUPPORTS WORKPLACE SAFETY**

***The Pellet Fuels Institute Responds to OSHA Proposed Combustible Dust Rule Making Notice***

January 22, 2010 - (Arlington, VA) The Pellet Fuels Institute (PFI) submitted comments on Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Docket No. OSHA-2009-0023 - Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making regarding Combustible Dust to better define practical standards relevant to the pellet manufacturing industry.

The manufacturing of wood pellet fuel requires unique safety precautions which are in place to protect employees and mill operations from fires created by dust combustion during mill operation. PFI member manufacturer mills utilize fire control equipment that range from spark detection and extinguishing equipment to dust water sprayers and control systems, fire suppression systems, emergency shut down controls, personal safety equipment and more. They are continually improving those measures to further reduce dust on-site.

“PFI is strongly in favor of practical standards that will make our workplaces safer and be reasonably implemented by the industry,” said Don Kaiser, executive director of PFI. “However, standards which are applied in a generic, one-size fits-all fashion from other industries such as the pharmaceutical and textile industries could add unnecessary levels of expense as well as hazard and still not achieve maximum levels of safety in the industry.”

In order to establish proper industry-specific protections, PFI and its members have responded to OSHA’s proposed rule making and seek to work with OSHA to develop appropriate standards and solutions to further control combustible dust in the workplace.

**The Pellet Fuels Institute**, located in Arlington, Virginia, is a North American trade association promoting energy independence through the efficient use of clean, renewable, densified biomass fuel. For more information about pellet heat, contact the Pellet Fuels Institute at (703) 522-6778 or [www.pelletheat.org](http://www.pelletheat.org).