**Remarks Prepared for Delivery by**

**Kathy Pierce**

**Hubble Foundation**

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I want to start by thanking the FCC and the Department of Labor for giving me the opportunity to be able to speak at this workshop again as they did in October of 2014. For those of you that weren’t here then, I lost my son Chad Weller on March 19th 2014. Chad was 21 years old and had his whole life ahead of him. I can’t believe that next month will mark the two year anniversary of Chad’s death.

I'm here again today to stress to you the importance of safety in this industry and to encourage all of you to remember that safety isn’t “someone else’s responsibility.” I do know changes won’t be made overnight, but I want to encourage everyone in the industry to continue changing the safety culture and to work towards the betterment of the industry for the climbers in the field.

Like I stated in 2014, it’s time for everyone involved to be held accountable when there’s an injury or a fatality. Safety is everyone’s business, it is everyone’s responsibility. As long as people and companies on every level keep avoiding responsibility, nothing is will ever change.

There's one thing that has really stuck in my mind from 2014 when I was here last. I remember someone telling me that their company (a carrier company I believe) that they did not have any fatalities. While that is fantastic, it illustrates my point. Regardless if they work directly for you, or if they are with another company that is subcontracted, the safety of those workers, ALL of them, are the responsibility of everyone, not just one company, not just one foreman, not just the climber themselves. Safety isn’t someone else’s problem. It’s EVERYONE’S problem. Making sure the workers are properly equipped and properly trained, secure in being able to report problems, are simple steps you can take to make the industry safer. Other issues also need to be addressed. Issues like pressuring workers with an unreasonable schedule, lack of rest, making sure workers have time with their families, being able to call a site unsafe and to stop work when something isn’t safe, and effective training. These are all issues that can be solved, but everyone has to be willing to do their part.

Before I end my speech I want to give you an update on my son’s case. Two of the three violations against Red Wing were dropped and I was told that the foreman that Chad was working with that day has been fired because of a comment he posted on Facebook. I was approached on Facebook by another employee of Redwing and I was assured that he had been fired and then I was told: “Oh you're the mother of the boy that fell off the water tower. I just want you to know your son made a difference in that company because they are very strict on safety now and he's always brought up in our meetings.”

I find it sad that it took my son to lose his life for them to be strict on safety. I ask WHY couldn't they have been strict before? If they had been, my son would still be here today.

I say to you my son: “You made a huge impact on people’s lives when you were here with us and now that you’re gone you’re still making an impact of the lives of others.”

Please help me to continue to honor him and the other climbers that have passed, and those that have been injured by not just giving lip service to change, but to commit yourselves to truly making those changes a reality.

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