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Bathroom Breakthrough

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Bathroom Breakthrough

In "The Lexus and the Right to Pee" (June 13), Barbara Ehrenreich cites my book, *Void Where Prohibited: Rest Breaks and the Right to Urinate on Company Time*, in stating that there is no federal right to bathroom breaks. In fact, as a result of the book and two years of discussions with the United Food and Commercial Workers and me, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued an official interpretation on April 6, 1998, that its regulation requiring employers to provide toilets also "requires employers to make toilet facilities available so that employees can use them when they need to do so."

Workers whose employers deny them access to toilets should therefore complain to OSHA. Unfortunately, if OSHA chooses not to enforce the law, the right to pee will remain a mere piece of paper since the federal courts have ruled that workers are not entitled to sue employers to ensure this right.

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