

July 14, 2026

To the NAEM Lifetime Achievement Award Selection Committee,

It is an honor to write this letter in support of Martin B. Stern, MPH, CIH, Vice President of Global Environment, Health & Safety at Colgate-Palmolive Company, for the NAEM Lifetime Achievement Award.

Benchmark Gensuite has had the privilege of working alongside Marty for many years as both a trusted technology partner and collaborator. During that time, we have witnessed firsthand not only the remarkable results he has achieved for Colgate-Palmolive, but also the profound influence he has had on the evolution of the EHS profession.

Throughout nearly four decades of leadership, Marty has consistently demonstrated that world-class safety performance is achieved by improving systems—not by placing blame on people. Long before Human and Organizational Performance (HOP) became a widely discussed topic across industry, Marty was challenging conventional thinking and encouraging organizations to understand *why* work succeeds or fails. His ability to translate complex safety philosophies into practical, scalable business practices has made him one of the most respected voices in our profession.

What has always distinguished Marty is his ability to connect strategic vision with operational reality. His experience leading both manufacturing operations and global EHS functions has given him a unique perspective that enables him to engage executives and frontline employees with equal credibility. Whether discussing enterprise strategy in the boardroom or walking a production floor with operators, Marty approaches every conversation with curiosity, humility, and an unwavering commitment to learning.

We have had the opportunity to collaborate with Marty on numerous initiatives involving digital transformation, safety management, data strategy, and continuous improvement. In

every engagement, he has challenged both our teams and his own organization to think beyond compliance and focus instead on building resilient systems that improve business performance while protecting people. His leadership has helped shape innovative approaches to EHS technology adoption and has continually pushed the industry toward more meaningful use of data and analytics.

Marty's accomplishments at Colgate-Palmolive speak for themselves. Under his leadership, the company fundamentally redefined its safety strategy by focusing on the prevention of serious injuries and fatalities through proactive risk management, critical risk controls, and Human & Organizational Performance principles. These efforts contributed to an extraordinary 75 percent reduction in serious incidents worldwide, while strengthening the organization's overall safety culture and operational excellence. His initiatives to eliminate high-risk exposures, implement collision-avoidance technologies, and replace hazardous work practices with engineered solutions demonstrate his commitment to designing risk out of work rather than asking people to work harder around it.

Beyond the measurable business results, Marty's greatest legacy is the influence he has had on the broader EHS community. Through leadership roles with The Conference Board, the National Safety Council, advisory boards, professional organizations, and industry conferences, he has generously shared his knowledge and challenged fellow leaders to raise expectations for what EHS can contribute to organizational success. His willingness to mentor peers, coach emerging professionals, and openly exchange ideas has strengthened countless organizations well beyond his own.

Perhaps most importantly, Marty leads with authenticity. He listens before speaking, encourages respectful debate, values diverse perspectives, and creates an environment where people feel comfortable identifying challenges without fear of blame. That leadership philosophy has earned him the trust of colleagues around the world and has inspired a generation of safety professionals to think differently about leadership, culture, and continuous improvement.

At Benchmark Gensuite, we work with many exceptional EHS leaders across industries and around the globe. Marty has consistently stood among the very best. His career reflects not only sustained excellence, but a genuine commitment to advancing the profession and improving the lives of workers everywhere. His influence extends far beyond Colgate-Palmolive, leaving a lasting legacy across the global EHS community.

It is without reservation that I recommend Marty for the NAEM Lifetime Achievement Award. Few individuals have contributed as meaningfully or as consistently to the advancement of environment, health, and safety over the course of their careers. Marty is truly deserving of this recognition.

Sincerely,

Natasha Porter

CCO & Co-Founder

Benchmark Gensuite