



An affiliate of the Allegheny Conference

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May 23, 2016

Dear Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, I am writing to ask for your support and vote for the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. There is broad agreement that the current law governing chemical safety, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), is ineffective and fails to serve its purpose of promoting consumer safety. On the other hand, TSCA reform moves us to a solid foundation for further growth of our Commonwealth's chemicals sector.

As you know, our chamber works to improve the quality of life and economy of southwestern Pennsylvania region. Our region has a long history in chemicals manufacturing, and with the shale energy renaissance, we have a real opportunity to see sustained economic growth from downstream chemicals manufacturing activities.

Furthermore, the chemical industry is a major employer and plays an important role in our economy here in Pennsylvania and across the nation. In the Commonwealth, chemical firms directly employ over 43,000 people with an average industry wage of \$82,261. Beyond our manufacturers, this legislation would affect a number of our members across a wide array of industries. Chemicals are used in 96 percent of all manufactured goods that consumers rely on every day, but for too long, the majority of those chemicals have not been tested for safety. Since the enactment of TSCA, the EPA has tested only 200 of the more than 84,000 chemicals on the market.

TSCA reform would be beneficial for southwestern Pennsylvania and the Commonwealth as a whole. This bill provides much needed reform, and we encourage our Commonwealth's congressional leaders to promptly pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Smith", is written over a blue horizontal line.

Matt Smith
President, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce