Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Council…The Committee on Environmental Improvement (CEI) continues to focus its attention on increasing ACS leadership related to sustainability and sustainable chemistry. The committee’s activities fall into four broad categories: programming, education, member involvement, and public policy.

I’d like to start this morning by focusing on the outstanding programming that is being delivered during this meeting. This is the second meeting, coincidentally both in San Francisco, where the members of CEI have been instrumental in delivering a theme related to sustainability. I hope that many of you have taken and continue to take advantage of the high level talent and programs relating Chemistry and Global Stewardship brought together by the Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group, several ACS committees and offices, and practically every ACS technical division.

Many chemists think that a focus on the nexus between chemistry and the environment began about 50 years ago with Rachael Carson’s publication of *Silent Spring.* However*,* this year actually marks the centennial of one of the American Chemical Society’s oldest divisions, the Division of Environmental Chemistry (ENVR). This unit was proposed in 1913 and established in 1914, demonstrating that chemists have long been concerned about the broader societal impact and implications of our work. CEI, who has partnered with the Environmental Division for decades on programming and activities, was proud to contribute to the anniversary celebration by co-sponsoring a symposium highlighting the intersection of chemistry and environmental policy

I am also pleased to congratulate the Louisiana Local Section, who was last night’s winner of the ChemLuminary Award for Outstanding Sustainability Activities. I hope that their programs on the business applications of biofuels, in combination with our meeting in the very green city of San Francisco, will inspire even more local sections to explore activities highlighting education and calls to action about sustainability.

In the policy area, CEI continues to review existing policy statements to keep them fresh and relevant and to explore emerging areas of interest where ACS can contribute the expertise of its members. During this meeting, CEI approved recommendations to the Board to revise public policy statements on Scientific Information in the Policy Process, Sustainability, and Federal Research & Development Funding as well as leading a multi-committee effort to develop a new statement on Hydraulic Fracturing. Our work next year will focus on Energy policy, Inherently Safer Technologies, and Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals. CEI appreciates our partners at the Committees on Chemistry and Public Affairs, Corporation Associates, and Science, who continue to work cooperatively to provide the best possible policy recommendations to the ACS Board.

Mr. President, this concludes my report.