



American Chemical Society

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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President-Elect, 2014
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March 17, 2015

The Honorable David Vitter
United States Senate
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1805

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3103

Dear Senators Vitter and Udall:

On behalf of the American Chemical Society, I am writing to endorse S.697, *The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act*. ACS, the world's largest scientific society, represents chemists and chemical engineers and was chartered by Congress in 1937 to provide guidance on science and policy matters.

ACS believes the time has arrived for all stakeholders to come together and work with Congress to update chemicals management and regulatory policy. S.697 represents a thoughtful and bipartisan approach to this complex issue, and ACS supports the approaches established in the legislation.

ACS is particularly excited about provisions to promote sustainability in Section 24. Sustainable chemistry continuously improves process safety and resource efficiency leading to reduced cost, waste, and environmental impact. It is the ultimate proof that environmental and economic benefit in chemistry can be optimized simultaneously.

The need to earn the public's confidence in chemical product safety is essential to both the health and safety of our nation's citizens and maintaining a robust domestic chemistry enterprise. Policy should be based on the concept that safety is a shared responsibility between government, industry, the value chain, and consumers. EPA should have the information and regulatory authority necessary to ensure chemical product safety, while working collaboratively with industry to drive innovation.

Thank you for your hard work on this legislation. ACS recognizes the lifelong interest of your late colleague, Senator Frank Lautenberg, in promoting safety in the chemistry enterprise. We look forward to working with you going forward. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Glenn Ruskin, Director, ACS Office of Public Affairs at 202-872-4475 or g_ruskin@acs.org.

Sincerely,

Diane Grob Schmidt, Ph.D.
2015 President
American Chemical Society

C: The Honorable James Inhofe
The Honorable Barbara Boxer