Madame President and Members of the Council,

The Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs (CCPA) is responsible for providing ACS with advice and recommendations for action on public policy matters that impact the chemical enterprise. In addition, CCPA works to motivate and support ACS member participation in government affairs, encouraging members to visit policymakers in Washington and their home districts.

In my written report, I shared a few of the legislative highlights accomplished last year through the combined efforts of the ACS External Affairs and Communications team and ACS members. This morning I would like to share an exciting new development for chemistry in Congress.

Last spring at the San Diego council meeting, former CCPA chair Susan Butts shared news of the creation of the Chemistry Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives.

[show CCPA slide 1]

I am pleased to share that there is now a Senate Chemistry Caucus. The Senate Chemistry Caucus is chaired by Senators Capito, Coons, Daines, and Peters. At an event last week, the four Senators were joined with the cosponsors of the House Chemistry Caucus, Representatives Lipinski and Moolenaar , at a reception to officially launch the Senate caucus. ACS partnered with the American Chemistry Council and the National Association of Chemical Distributors to make this happen. The Chemistry Caucus remains bipartisan, and now is bicameral.

On Saturday, CCPA members were pleased to meet with ACS President Allison Campbell and learned about her plans to encourage and train ACS members to advocate for science, including an advocacy workshop to help prepare ACS members to reach out to their members of congress and urge them to join the Congressional Chemistry Caucus. This workshop will take place at the Fall meeting in Washington DC, and members of CCPA stand ready and eager to assist President Campbell with this effort.

CCPA is developing other programming for the Washington meeting For example, CCPA is cosponsoring a symposium planned by the Committees on Younger Chemists, Science, and International Activities, and the Division on Chemical Education titled “Chemistry in an Evolving Political Climate—Research Priorities and Career Pathways in Public Policy.” The symposium will feature speakers who will discuss how recent changes in our nation’s Capital impact the chemical enterprise, highlight how chemists can help shape government policy and share information for chemists who are interested in science policy careers.

CCPA is also pleased to cosponsor a Small Chemical Business Division symposium called “Working in the Public Sector: Running for Office” which will share tools and personal stories about running for office at the local, state, and federal level.

Now is an important time for chemists to make their voices heard on public policy issues, and CCPA is working to ensure that all members are aware of the ACS tools, resources, and expertise to assist them in these efforts.

Madame President, this concludes my report.