



External Affairs & Communications
Anthony Pitagno
Director

September 23, 2019

The Honorable John Barrasso
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

On behalf of the American Chemical Society (ACS), I am writing to express appreciation for the recent confirmation hearing to consider Katherine Lemos for Chair of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB). ACS represents over 150,000 chemists and chemical engineers and was chartered by Congress in 1937 to provide policymakers with advice on issues of importance to the nation and scientific community.

Dr. Lemos' strong record in government service and accident investigation are valuable qualities. Her background in psychology and the human factor in accidents would add an important set of tools to CSB investigations, strengthening CSB's ability to provide well-founded recommendations that improve safety across the chemical enterprise.

CSB has a critical mission to "drive chemical safety change through independent investigation to protect people and the environment." The ACS supports safety in the chemical enterprise¹ and the CSB provides a valuable resource to meet that goal by conducting investigations of chemical incidents using highly trained staff with relevant expertise. Board-issued recommendations help reduce the likelihood of incidents recurring. Safety organizations, trade associations, corporations, educational institutions, and many others rely on these recommendations. Due to the vital service CSB provides, it is imperative that the Board itself have an appointed chair and that the other vacancies be filled.

Please accept the Society's thanks for your efforts on behalf of CSB. As the Committee considers additional nominees, it is vital that representation of the chemical enterprise is retained, and the Society looks forward to working with you to ensure a fully-populated Board. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Will Hartwig (w_hartwig@acs.org).

Sincerely,

Anthony Pitagno

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¹ <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/policy/publicpolicies/science-policy/safety-in-the-chemistry-enterprise.html>