



TEXAS CHEMICAL COUNCIL

1402 Nueces Street • Austin, Texas 78701-1586 • (512) 646-6400 • Fax (512) 646-6420

June 4, 2009

The Honorable Joe L. Barton
2109 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Barton:

The Texas Chemical Council (TCC) urges you to support legislation to reauthorize the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) chemical facility security standards which were enacted by Congress in 2006.

TCC is a statewide trade association representing 77 chemical manufacturers operating more than 200 manufacturing facilities in Texas. Our industry has invested more than \$50 billion in physical assets in the state and pays over \$1 billion annually in state and local taxes. TCC's members provide approximately 70,000 direct jobs and over 500,000 indirect jobs to Texans across the state.

TCC supports Congress enacting into statute the regulatory framework known as the "Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards" that the DHS carefully established and is now enforcing. Removing the sunset date and making the chemical security regulations permanent would provide the certainty needed to both protect our citizens and support our nation's economic recovery.

TCC is strongly opposed to legislation that would disrupt this security program by adding provisions that would mandate government-favored substitutions, weaken protection of sensitive information, impose onerous penalties for administrative errors, create conflicts with other security standards or move away from a risk-based approach. We ask that you oppose legislation that would go beyond security protections and create a mandate to substitute products and processes with a government-selected technology. TCC also requests that you ensure that any security legislation avoid overlap and conflict with existing federal security requirements, such as the U.S. Coast Guard's "Maritime Transportation Security Act."

Our members' highest priority is protecting their employees and the communities where they live and work. We feel this is being accomplished through compliance with the landmark new DHS chemical security standards. We ask that you oppose counter-productive changes to the current law that would undermine security and endanger businesses and communities. We appreciate your consideration of our concerns. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Hector L. Rivero
President & CEO

cc: Texas Congressional Delegation