



March 20, 2008

Ambassador Louise V. Oliver
Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
2, avenue Gabriel
75382 Paris, Cedex 08, FRANCE

Dear Ambassador Oliver:

The American Chemistry Council (ACC), representing the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry, welcomes the unanimous resolution of the International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) to declare 2011 the “International Year of Chemistry.” We are writing to you as the United States Ambassador to UNESCO to ask that you support the resolution on this subject that will be presented for adoption at the 179th session of UNESCO's Executive Board.

Advanced standards of living around the world are grounded in chemistry. The application of chemistry continues to be crucial for innovations that will meet the most important global challenges of the 21st Century, such as climate change, clean water, agriculture and food safety, public health, and energy conservation and development.

2011 is an appropriate year to celebrate the significant contributions of chemistry because it marks the 100th anniversary of several chemistry milestones, including the Nobel Prize in Chemistry awarded to Maria Sklodowska-Curie (“Madame Curie”), and the founding of the International Association of Chemical Societies. This means that 2011 provides a natural opportunity for educational programs that spotlight the science of chemistry and the role of chemistry in enhancing our everyday lives. In addition, 2011 facilitates global efforts to celebrate the contributions of women in science and to demonstrate the benefits of international scientific collaboration.

On behalf of the members of the American Chemistry Council and the nearly 900,000 Americans who work in our industry, we thank you for your support of United Nations efforts to declare 2011 the “International Year of Chemistry.” We will be working to promote the International Year of Chemistry with our colleagues in the International Council of Chemical Associations and with IUPAC and professional societies.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Gerard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jack N. Gerard
President and CEO

