July 6, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Reid:

The American Chemistry Council (ACC)* urges you to proceed to a conference with the House to produce a final comprehensive energy bill that can be signed into law. Energy is fundamental to the chemical industry and to our manufacturing economy. That is why ACC strongly supported passage of S. 2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act. This important legislation will result in much-needed energy savings, energy supply diversity and security, new infrastructure and innovations in vehicle manufacturing and energy recovery – all vital to U.S. manufacturing growth.

ACC is a longtime supporter of the bill’s energy efficiency provisions as smart, cost-effective ways to save energy while creating jobs. We are pleased the Senate’s efficiency title retains support for strong, viable and useful building energy codes. The chemistry industry creates many of the solutions and technologies that make efficiency and renewable energy possible.

We encourage approval of an amendment by Senators Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) to allow energy cost savings to be considered in determining home values. It is a voluntary way to improve residential energy efficiency while saving homeowners money.

We also support provisions in the Senate bill that will streamline permitting for natural gas pipelines and set appropriate project approval deadlines, which are needed to link production sites to manufacturing facilities around the country and provide greater regulatory certainty. We welcome the call for a study on building an ethane infrastructure hub in Appalachia. We applaud expanded R&D for advanced vehicle manufacturing and research into cost-effective systems to convert plastics into materials that can be used to generate electricity, fuels or chemical feedstock.
Given the many beneficial provisions found in the Senate and House bills, ACC strongly urges the U.S. Senate to proceed to a conference with the House on S. 2012 and the House-passed amendment.

Sincerely,

Cal Dooley

cc: Members of the United States Senate

*The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a $797 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is the nation's largest exporter, accounting for fourteen percent of all U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.