ACC APPLAUDS HOUSE ACTION TO ADDRESS RAIL SAFETY AND AVERT TRANSPORTATION CRISIS

WASHINGTON (October 22, 2015) – The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved a bill today that authorizes federal highway programs and includes provisions that take on important rail safety issues, including the looming deadline for implementing positive train control (PTC). The legislation will provide railroads with an appropriate extension to complete the work of installing this important but complex rail safety technology.

American Chemistry Council (ACC) President and CEO Cal Dooley issued the following statement regarding today’s vote:

“ACC and its members commend the House and Senate for coming together to agree on legislative language that addresses important rail safety issues, including a crucial extension for implementing PTC.

“We appreciate the hard work that Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio have contributed in helping put this proposal together, and we appreciate their leadership on this important issue. The legislation approved by the Committee brings the House closer to settling the PTC issue, but it is critical that Congress finish the job right away to avoid a shutdown of passenger and freight rail service.

“Neither chemical manufacturers nor the U.S. economy can afford for the PTC deadline to get any closer without immediate congressional action. The stakes are too high for Congress to use this issue as political leverage to advance other goals. With a major transportation crisis just around the corner, Congress must act quickly to pass legislation before the end of this month that extends the PTC deadline.”

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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 an $801 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.