



News Release

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ACC EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD AND URGES CONGRESS AND WHITE HOUSE TO FILL BOARD VACANCIES

WASHINGTON (January 29, 2020) – In [testimony](#) before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) expressed its support for the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) and urged the White House and Congress to fill the open positions on the Board.

At a [hearing](#) to discuss the importance of the CSB, ACC's President and CEO, Chris Jahn, explained why the Board's mission is valuable to the chemical industry and why Congressional action is needed.

"The CSB has the important job of independently investigating major accidents and making recommendations. The CSB's findings are very influential and a catalyst for safety improvements," said Jahn. "In short, ACC values the work of the CSB."

"ACC believes that the Board plays a much needed role for safeguarding chemical facilities, the public, and the environment," he continued. "In order to be effective in that role, the CSB needs the five Board members that Congress envisioned when it created the CSB."

The CSB is currently operating with just two board members and will be down to a single board member in February, which has never happened since the Board was created.

"Unfortunately, there is a very real prospect that the Board will soon have only one full member, which is a scenario that ACC and its members would like to avoid," Jahn warned. "That is why we urge the Administration to nominate additional well-qualified industry and process safety experts to serve on the Board. And, we ask the Senate to confirm those nominees as soon as possible."

Jahn concluded his testimony by thanking the current and past board members for their work to promote chemical safety and expressing ACC's commitment to help ensure a fully functioning and fully staffed CSB.

"We look forward to working with you and the Administration to fill the open positions at the CSB with capable and committed candidates, and to ensure the Board has the resources it needs to fulfill its mission," said Jahn.

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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 a \$553 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is among the largest exporters in the nation, accounting for ten percent of all U.S. goods 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.

