ACC RESPONSE TO ACTIVIST SECURITY CLAIMS IN DELAWARE

ARLINGTON, VA (May 28, 2010) – It’s unfortunate Greenpeace continues to use the issue of security in a misguided attempt to ban essential chemicals, like chlorine, that are vital to protecting human health and producing everything from solar cells to the airship they used as part of their protest.

We disagree with the notion you can secure all facilities by simply requiring them to use different chemicals. Experts agree an effective security plan addresses potential security vulnerabilities while at the same time taking into account other important considerations like protecting jobs, managing environmental concerns and ensuring worker safety. Ironically, some of the “solutions” Greenpeace touts are more energy intensive and produce more waste.

Keeping our communities safe is a goal we all share. Since 2001, our members have invested more than $8 billion on facility security enhancements under ACC’s Responsible Care Security Code®.

We also continue to be strong proponents of federal chemical security regulations to ensure that all chemical facilities take the necessary steps to enhance security. Regulations like the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) that have won praise from Congress. This is a security program with teeth and bite for those who fail to take security seriously.

Under CFATS, any facility that fails to act can be fined and/or shut down by DHS. The rules require chemical facilities to address a wide range of threats, such as preventing a bomb-laden car from reaching a target, or preventing the theft or diversion of materials from a site.

By not boxing facility operators into a singular approach for securing their facilities, the rules encourage operators to consider and implement a wide array of security measures from process changes to hardening their facilities. For example, since DHS began implementing CFATS the number of high risk facilities has been reduced from 7,000 sites to 6,000 – a majority of these facilities have done so through changes to their processes.

We support the extension of CFATS and are working with Congress to support passage of S. 2996, the “Continuing Chemical Facilities Antiterrorism Security Act of 2010” bipartisan legislation that focuses on thwarting terrorism while helping to secure more than 10,000 jobs in Delaware that depend on our industry.
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 $689 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation’s largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in 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.