



Statement

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Contact: Scott Jensen, (202) 249-6511

Email: Scott.Jensen@americanchemistry.com

ACC SUPPORTS BIPARTISAN SENATE LEGISLATIVE REFORMS TO STRENGTHEN EPA'S PEER REVIEW PANELS

Proposed Legislation Would Improve Expert Panel Selection, Limit Conflicts of Interest and Enhance Systematic Reviews

WASHINGTON (Dec. 18, 2013) – *Senators Boozman (R-AR) and Manchin (D-WV) introduced [legislation](#) to reform the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) and its subcommittees. The bipartisan EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act would improve the process for selecting experts to serve on EPA's scientific advisory panels and would strengthen public participation in the reviews that serve as the foundation for many important regulatory decisions. The bill is also cosponsored by Senators Crapo (R-ID), Sessions (R-AL), Vitter (R-LA) and Wicker (R-MS).*

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) issued the following statement in response:

“A strong peer review process is the hallmark of a scientifically sound chemical assessment program and critically important to instilling confidence in the EPA's decisions. Senators Boozman and Manchin along with their colleagues have taken an important step to ensure that EPA follows the best available science by proposing legislation that would strengthen the integrity of the expert advisory panels that are charged with critically reviewing the Agency's chemical assessments.

“Not only would this bill lead to improvements in how panels are formed by eliminating conflicts of interest and increasing disclosures, but it would also improve scientific discourse and the final assessment by having peer review panels respond to public comments on panel evaluations, ensuring that legitimate scientific concerns are transparently addressed. The need for a more effective ‘honest broker’ was recently made clear by EPA's failure to adequately address the concerns raised by the expert advisory panel that reviewed EPA's draft methanol assessment under its IRIS program.

“ACC and our members urge the Senate to act quickly and pass this bipartisan legislation, which will strengthen EPA's chemical assessment program and foster scientifically based public health decisions, while at the same time encouraging innovation and economic growth.”

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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 \$770 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporters, accounting for twelve 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.

