Statement

For Immediate Release

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ACC URGES SENATE PASSAGE OF ORDEAL ACT
Legislation Would Give EPA More Time to Review and Revise Air Quality Standards

WASHINGTON (June 24, 2014) – The American Chemistry Council (ACC) today urged Senate passage of S. 2514, the Ozone Regulatory Delay and Extension of Assessment Length (ORDEAL) Act, introduced by Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ). The bill would give the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) more time to review and revise air quality standards, ensuring a more certain regulatory environment for state air-quality agencies and businesses.

“We applaud Senator Flake’s effort to bring greater certainty to the regulatory process while protecting public health. Many state agencies need more time to fully implement new air quality standards, while manufacturers with plans to build and expand in the U.S. need sufficient time and guidance to fully understand new rules. The ORDEAL Act is an important step forward, and we urge swift passage by the Senate.

“According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), emissions of common air pollutants and their precursors have fallen substantially. Between 1980 and 2012, total emissions of the six principal air pollutants dropped by 67 percent, even as U.S. gross domestic product grew 133 percent. Voluntary and regulatory programs will continue to reduce ozone concentrations through 2030.”

“Forcing states to attempt to meet a lower standard without ample time and consideration would inhibit investment and expansion in the chemical industry. Chemistry companies have announced plans for 184 new U.S. projects representing $117 billion in capital spending, and the broader economy stands to benefit as the effects of abundant, affordable shale gas supplies are felt.

“The ORDEAL Act would extend EPA’s timeline to review and revise National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and air quality criteria from five to ten-year intervals. It would also prohibit EPA from finalizing, implementing or enforcing a revised ozone standard until 2018. EPA has yet to fully implement the 2008 ozone NAAQS, and the additional time would allow EPA and the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee to consider the best way to implement new standards.”

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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 $812 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.