CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS APPLAUD SENATOR KENNEDY’S LEADERSHIP TO IMPROVE RULEMAKING PROCESS FOR TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

WASHINGTON (December 12, 2019) – The American Chemistry Council (ACC) today welcomed the introduction of the Hazardous Materials Safety Improvement Act of 2019, sponsored by Senator John Kennedy (R-L.A.). The Act would require the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to act within 18 months on petitions for regulatory action and reinforce the Department of Transportation’s authority for regulating the safety of shipping hazardous materials.

ACC’s President & CEO, Chris Jahn issued the following statement welcoming the new legislation:

“Senator Kennedy’s bill will bring much needed urgency and clarity to how the federal government addresses the transportation of hazardous materials. Simply put, this legislation will require PHMSA to act quicker on regulatory requests and will help the Administration be more agile when it comes to safeguarding the shipment of hazardous materials.

“Equally important, the bill will also reaffirm the Department of Transportation as the final authority when it comes to establishing regulations and standards that govern the safe movement of hazardous materials. Providing this regulatory clarity will go a long way in supporting our industry’s large and ongoing investments in rail tank cars and other equipment, which is essential to making sure our members can safely transport products to where they are needed without incident.

“We appreciate Senator Kennedy’s leadership on helping PHMSA to act quicker on regulatory requests and urge his colleagues to support this important legislation.”

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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.