



# Statement

For Immediate Release

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## **HOUSE SCIENCE COMMITTEE PROPOSES COMMON SENSE REFORM TO EPA SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PROCESS**

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Oct. 1, 2012) – *Members of the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, led by Committee Chairman Ralph Hall (R-Tx.), have introduced legislation to reform the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) and its subcommittees. The bill, H.R. 6564, “EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2012,” would improve the composition and transparency of EPA’s scientific advisory panels and instill greater transparency in the reviews underpinning many important regulatory decisions.*

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

“We cannot overstate the importance of this bill to Americans who must have confidence in a regulatory system that is transparent and that makes decisions based on sound science and with the best interests of our country in mind. Chairman Hall and fellow committee members have taken an important first step toward achieving that goal by proposing legislation that would strengthen the scientific integrity of the advisory panels on which EPA relies to make those decisions.

“Not only would this bill lead to improvements in how panels are formed, but it would also hold peer review panels accountable in responding to public comment, ensuring that legitimate scientific concerns are transparently addressed. The bill would also ensure that SAB expert panels clearly communicate to the Administrator any uncertainties associated with their findings and recommendations.

“In addition, we are pleased that H.R. 6564 is in line with recommendations presented earlier this month in a report by the Research Integrity Roundtable, which is designed to maximize transparency and objectivity at every step in the regulatory decision-making process. ACC and our members urge swift passage of this bill.”

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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<sup>®</sup>, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$760 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is the largest exporting sector in the U.S., accounting for 12 percent of 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.*

