NAFRA ISSUES STATEMENT ON PLAN BY SEN. CHARLES SCHUMER TO LIMIT USE OF FLAME RETARDANTS

WASHINGTON (September 14, 2014) – In response to Senator Charles Schumer’s plan to introduce new legislation banning flame retardants in upholstered furniture and children’s products, the American Chemistry Council’s North American Flame Retardant Alliance (NAFRA) released the following statement:

“Flame retardants in upholstered furniture add a safeguard against the devastation of home fire. Ensuring homes have strong fire protection measures in place is critical, given that children under the age of 5 are disproportionately harmed by fire, according to the U.S. Fire Administration.

“Flame retardants have been scientifically proven to help stop or slow the spread of fire, and they help save lives. NAFRA believes in strengthening fire safety and supports the use of flame retardants in those products where the chemistries can provide an important, added layer of protection.

“Consumers should know that flame retardants, like other chemicals, are subject to review by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other regulatory bodies for safety.

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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 the nation’s largest exporter, 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.