May 13, 2015

The Honorable John Shimkus
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shimkus and Ranking Member Tonko:

On behalf of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) and our member companies, I am writing to express our support for the new draft TSCA Modernization Act of 2015, scheduled for markup in your subcommittee on May 14, 2015.

Industry, labor, environmental, public health and consumer groups all agree that it is time to reform TSCA. Thanks to your leadership and steadfast commitment to this important issue, the draft and the Subcommittee markup mean we are closer to achieving that goal than ever before. The inclusive, bipartisan process you have led, and the important support of Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone, have resulted in an approach to TSCA reform that will build confidence in the U.S. chemical regulatory system, protect human health and the environment from significant risks, and meet the commercial and competitive interests of the U.S. chemical industry and the national economy.

The revised draft of the TSCA Modernization Act addresses the fundamental elements of effective reform of the Act. EPA is provided authority to mandate the generation of new information on chemicals, conduct risk evaluations on priority chemicals according to clear deadlines, and review claims to protect confidential business information. EPA’s risk decisions must be based on health and environmental considerations, not costs or benefits. Importantly, the draft provides for a strong and cohesive federal system while maintaining a role for states in the protection of their citizens and environment, and it provides EPA the additional resources necessary to evaluate risks.

Your efforts to develop the draft and hold a markup are significant milestones in the TSCA reform effort. Along with the recent passage by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee of the “Frank Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act” (S. 697), your Subcommittee’s action is providing an important impetus to achieving TSCA reform this year.
We look forward to the Subcommittee’s approval of the draft TSCA Modernization Act of 2015 on May 14, and encourage swift consideration of the legislation by the full Energy and Commerce Committee.

Sincerely,

Cal Dooley