

The Honorable Chris Stewart
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2013

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing on behalf of the American Alliance for Innovation (AAI), a large and diverse coalition of trade associations representing a broad spectrum of the American economy.

It is paramount that chemicals and metals producers, manufacturers, distributors, importers, users, and consumers have confidence that there is a transparent federal chemical management system in place that is both grounded in sound science and will deliver timely safety decisions. Oversight of the safe production and use of chemicals affects us all, which is why we support your efforts to improve the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) and its committees.

The SAB is a critical part of the EPA's quality control process that was established to ensure that the Agency produces credible information to help guide regulatory decisions at all levels of government. We all agree, therefore, that the SAB must provide meaningful, balanced, and independent reviews of the science conducted and used by EPA, and we support advancing your bill, H.R. 1422 (the "EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2013") in this Congress.

We are encouraged to see that your legislation takes into account public policy recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences and the Bipartisan Policy Council, as well as input that the Committee has received from numerous experts and stakeholder groups. H.R. 1422 will greatly enhance the current peer review process in many important ways by strengthening policies to address conflicts of interest, while at the same time ensuring that a wide range of scientific perspectives are represented on panels. The bill will also increase the utility of SAB panels by improving the process for public engagement and ensuring that scientific concerns are clearly addressed and communicated.

We are committed to working with you and the Members of the Science Committee to move this legislation forward, and we urge all members of Congress to support its passage.

Sincerely,

Adhesive and Sealant Council
Alkylphenols & Ethoxylates Research Council
American Architectural Manufacturers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Coke & Coal Chemicals Institute
American Farm Bureau Federation®
American Fiber Manufacturers Association

American Forest & Paper Association
American Gas Association
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Wood Council
Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association
Corn Refiners Association
CropLife America
Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association
Halogenated Solvents Industry Alliance, Inc.
Institute of Makers of Explosives
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Manufacturers
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Tank Truck Carriers, Inc.
Nickel Institute
Oregon Women In Timber
Pine Chemicals Association, Inc.
Portland Cement Association
Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment
The Fertilizer Institute
The Vinyl Institute
Treated Wood Council

cc: Members of House Science, Space, and Technology Committee