Dear Mr. Speaker and Leader Pelosi:

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) urges you to vote yes today on H.R. 4007, The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014. ACC strongly supports this bill which would give much needed long term authorization to the CFATS program. CFATS regulates security for a wide variety of facilities that make, store, or use chemicals from farms to factories. The program allows facilities to tailor their security plans to meet their unique needs, and authorization of the program would give the industry long overdue regulatory certainty.

ACC is the trade association for the chemical industry in the United States, which is a $770 billion industry and employs 784,000 Americans in high wage jobs. The industry is experiencing a renaissance thanks to the increase in domestic shale gas production, and our members have announced over $110 billion in new planned capital expenditures that will provide tens of thousands of new jobs, and give manufacturers throughout the value chain a domestic supply of the chemicals they need to manufacture products in this country. Ensuring that clear and workable security regulations remain in place is an important part of creating an environment that will continue to foster these new investments.

DHS has dramatically improved its administration of the CFATS program, which has had a positive impact on enhancing security at US chemical sites, and ACC supports making this a permanent program for the approximately 4,500 sites that are regulated under CFATS. Congressional oversight via an authorization would help DHS with some of the challenges they have faced implementing the program, even as the agency has made progress with a new management structure. The industry has seen considerable increased activity from DHS, including improved quality of inspections and faster authorizations. Most importantly, DHS leadership has demonstrated a commitment to working with stakeholders to improve the implementation of the CFATS program.

A long term authorization outside of the appropriation process will provide the regulatory consistency and operational stability to ensure the success of CFATS, while giving industry confidence in their long term capital commitments to this program. Ensuring the future of this important program will also help DHS recruit and retain top talent to effectively implement CFATS.

Please contact Mike Meenan, Director of Federal Affairs at mike_meenan@americanchemistry.com or at (202) 249-6216 if we can be of any assistance while you consider this important vote.

Sincerely,

Cal Dooley