



March 7, 2014

Representative John Shimkus, Chair
Representative Paul Tonko, Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy
Representative Fred Upton, Chair
Representative Henry Waxman, Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Chemicals in Commerce Act

Dear Rep. Shimko, Rep. Tonko, Rep. Waxman, and Rep. Upton:

The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network's (BCAN) mission is to increase public awareness about bladder cancer, advance bladder cancer research, and provide educational and support services for the bladder cancer community. We represent the bladder cancer community, those who are coping with a diagnosis, caregivers, and those who have lost a loved one to this deadly disease. **Because of the strong connection between bladder cancer and environmental concerns, we are deeply troubled by the proposed Chemicals in Commerce Act.**

At its core, the legislation demonstrates a blatant disregard for health standards and recommendations by patient health organizations, the medical community, and researchers including the National Academy of Sciences. This proposal does nothing to strengthen the current failed safety standard in TSCA and greatly weakens the agency's oversight of chemical regulation. Current standards on toxic chemicals would be rolled-back and states stripped of their power to regulate unsafe chemicals in their own communities. The act undermines what little progress that has been made to minimize health risks and ensure the safety of the American public.

Key Statistics on Bladder Cancer:

- **It is estimated that more than \$3.98 billion is spent to treat bladder cancer each year in the U.S.**
- Bladder cancer is the sixth most commonly diagnosed cancer in the U.S. with more than 72,000 new cases expected this year.
- 500,000 people are currently living with bladder cancer in the United States.
- Approximately 15,000 people will die from the disease this year alone.
- Bladder cancer is three times more common in men than in women. It is the 4th most diagnosed cancer in men.
- Though it is more prevalent in men, studies have shown that women are more likely to present advanced tumors and have a worse prognosis than men at almost every stage of the disease.
- The 5-year survival rate for women is equal to the 10-year survival rate for men.
- Bladder cancer has a recurrence rate of 50-80 percent. **Because it requires life-long surveillance, it is the most expensive cancer to treat on a per patient basis.**

In addition to a staggering number of diagnoses and deaths, bladder cancer also greatly impacts the quality of life for patients. Invasive testing and treatments create practical concerns for patients, negatively effecting urinary function and sexual health. For more advanced cases of the disease, radical cystectomy is often the only option, resulting in an extreme modification of daily activities and painful recovery. These factors cannot be quantified, but should be considered when assessing the risk of bladder cancer.

The 2008-2009 Annual Report from the President's Cancer Panel included the following statement to the president: "The Panel urges you most strongly to use the power of your office to remove the carcinogens and other toxins from our food, water, and air that needlessly increase health care costs, cripple our Nation's productivity, and devastate American lives." The document listed 6 chemical exposure strongly linked to bladder cancer and another 4 suspected links. The Chemicals in Commerce Act not only ignores the panel's recommendations, but once implemented, would negatively impact public health risk.

In light of these concerns, we strongly urge Congress to rethink the proposed legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Monica Smith
Executive Director