

**Leo W. Gerard**  
International President

March 7, 2014

The Honorable John Shimkus  
Chairman  
House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko  
Ranking Minority Member  
House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shimkus and Ranking Minority Member Tonko:

I write to you today on behalf of the 1.2 million active and retired members of the United Steelworkers (USW) in strong opposition to the recently released discussion draft titled the "Chemicals in Commerce Act" (CICA).

The USW is the largest industrial union in North America and represents the majority of unionized chemical workers in the United States who make plastics, fertilizers, pesticides, synthetic rubber, pharmaceuticals, paints, pigments, solvents and thousands of organic and inorganic chemicals. We therefore have a very significant stake in the economic health of the chemical industry and all industries that use chemicals where workers suffer higher exposures than other segments of the population.

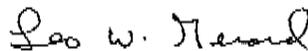
As a wide variety of stakeholders at subcommittee hearings have indicated, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) is badly outdated and broken. Our union has been advocating for TSCA reform for many years. The discussion draft, if enacted, would not fix the problems of TSCA or better protect worker, public or environmental health. Among the problems are:

- CICA retains the highly problematic "unreasonable risk" standard and "least burdensome" method for regulating use that has prevented EPA from acting for the last 40 years. Real reform would include a health-only safety standard.

- CICA preempts and prevents states from protecting their citizens by annulling existing laws and prevent new data collection, testing and restrictions on chemicals at the state level. Real reform would allow states to act.
- CICA makes it nearly impossible for EPA to require companies to submit health and safety information for new chemicals before they go on the market. Real reform would require that chemicals be shown to meet a health-only safety standard before they go on the market as a way to protect health and improve confidence in the safety of new chemicals.
- CICA does not require that EPA assess and protect all exposures of vulnerable populations including children, pregnant women, workers, and the elderly. Real reform would ensure that all of these exposures are assessed and meet a health-only safety standard.
- CICA expands categories of information that can be considered confidential business information without the need to justify that claim. Real reform would make information about the safety and use of chemicals available to workers and the public.

For these reasons and more, USW opposes this draft legislation. We urge members of the subcommittee to refrain from introducing it. Instead, we urge that a new effort be made by the subcommittee to introduce real TSCA reform legislation that will better protect workers and the public.

Sincerely,



Leo W. Gerard  
International President

Cc: House Energy & Commerce Committee

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