

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy
Hearing on “H.R. _____, the TSCA Modernization Act of 2015”
April 14, 2015**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today is an important milestone as we work to bring our chemical safety laws into the 21st century. I thank Mr. Shimkus for his bipartisan member-to-member work bringing this legislation before the subcommittee. I also commend the Ranking Member of the full committee Frank Pallone for collaborating across the aisle to develop a proposal we can all embrace.

We've heard from a diverse cross-section of stakeholders that TSCA needs modernizing. When first enacted nearly four decades ago, the structure was a bit of an experiment. When our predecessors on this committee designed TSCA, they were clearly attempting to reconcile diverse points of view within Congress and in the American public.

Our challenge today is the same, but now we have the benefit of experience. Our witnesses include the administration's main point person on chemical regulation, industry experts with global regulatory experience, and a person who manages a chemical business on a day-to-day basis. As someone responsible for meeting the payroll, she may have the most valuable experience of all. We look forward to all of your testimony today and to working collaboratively in the days to come in getting this project done.

Last year we spent countless hours trying to develop bipartisan legislation only to find that we put more issues on the table than we could resolve. Drawing on that lesson, this year's bill is more focused.

First, it kick starts the process of selecting chemicals already in commerce for risk evaluation and, if necessary, rulemaking to mitigate that risk. From among chemicals already on the market, EPA selects ones it sees as potentially posing an unreasonable risk. Second, the bill also lets the market select chemicals for risk evaluation by allowing a manufacturer to ask for (and pay for) an evaluation.

In either case, the risk evaluation must stand up to rigorous scientific standards set out in the legislation. If EPA does identify an unreasonable risk, it must turn immediately to drafting a rule tailored to mitigate that risk. These rules will focus on the danger at hand.

Once written, those rules will be shared by all Americans. Rooted in science, the EPA decisions will obviate state-by-state attempts to regulate interstate markets. And everyone from moms in Michigan to consumers around the world will have the confidence that a chemical cleared by EPA won't harm them or their families.

Let's continue the bipartisan momentum and get this legislation through the committee and the full House. This is the year for meaningful reform.

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