

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

(As Prepared for Delivery)

The Subcommittee will come to order. Today marks an important milestone in our effort to modernize TSCA. The more we work together, Member to Member, on a bipartisan basis, the more we understand each other and how much we can accomplish. Our subcommittee has put in a lot of hours on TSCA over the past couple years, and that effort is about to pay off. It's gratifying to work directly with Members on both sides of the aisle who bring so much dedication to the task.

A week ago we unveiled the bill before us today. Besides the bill language itself, that announcement carried a couple other important messages. First, Members have been working together directly; challenging each other to find common ground; and discovering that we share many policy objectives.

Let's talk about some of those policy objectives. First, I think we all want EPA to do objective, science-based examinations of some of the chemicals that are already on the market. EPA already has some of these in mind to evaluate because EPA thinks they have potential for unreasonable risk of injury to human health or the environment.

Meanwhile, if manufacturers want to take a pro-active approach and ask the Agency to perform a risk evaluation, we are okay with that as long as:

- it meets the same rigorous science requirements as the ones EPA itself initiates; and
- the manufacturer is willing to pay the EPA administrative cost of performing the work.

We also want to continue protecting confidential business information but for CBI claims made after our bill becomes law, we'd like manufacturers to re-establish those claims at least once every ten years.

We think EPA should be allowed to mandate testing on a chemical in order to complete a risk evaluation, since the risk evaluation step is new to TSCA.

These are just a few of the provisions that appear in the discussion draft.

I think we also agree that the process is, and should be, moving forward.

Leading Members on both sides are committed to that momentum.

We'll listen carefully to stakeholders on what they like in the draft and we welcome suggestions they have for improvement. We'll collect those comments and then we'll sit down as a subcommittee and make decisions.

Members should plan on a subcommittee mark up about a month from now on May 14th. To facilitate our work, we'll publish a revised bill text reflecting consensus revisions in time to use as the subcommittee mark-up vehicle. And I'll be asking Chairman Upton to schedule it for full Committee consideration as soon as practicable after the subcommittee has done its work.

I thank all of the witnesses today for their willingness to participate. Assistant Administrator Jim Jones, you are no stranger to this Committee. Your agency has already offered some informal technical assistance for which we are grateful. And we expect to continue working with you on it until the final version passes both Bodies of Congress and is signed by the President.

We also welcome our second panel of witnesses. You are all also friends to this Committee and we've been grateful for your perspectives in the past. We look forward to hearing from you on this fresh new approach.

Finally, I thank Chairman Upton for his full support on this bill, and my friends, Paul Tonko and Frank Pallone, and Subcommittee Members on both sides for their active partnership in this project.

Let's all keep working together to get this vitally important legislation enacted.

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