



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

April 14, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Shimkus  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Environment  
and the Economy  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Environment  
and the Economy  
2232A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Upton and Shimkus and Ranking Members Pallone and Tonko:

I am writing to commend your leadership on legislation to reauthorize the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). There is widespread agreement that the 39 year old law has not worked as intended. I applaud your effort to update the regulatory framework to achieve greater public health protections. More broadly, I am encouraged by the substantive, open and collaborative process the Committee has pursued.

The committee led efforts reveal a broader point about the importance of the committee process. In 2013, the BPC launched the Commission on Political Reform (CPR) to examine the causes and consequences of our political gridlock and develop recommendations for alleviating the impasse. Key to the commission's recommendations are several proposals aimed at restoring the role of congressional committees in legislative development and oversight. Committees have always been the engines of the democracy where legitimate partisan instincts are mediated by substantive expertise, common interests and shared constituencies.

The legislative discussion draft, hearing schedule and efforts to solicit broad stakeholder input have been critical to anchoring a productive public discussion on this complex and controversial subject and provides an excellent example of how the system can and should work. It is encouraging to see bipartisan efforts moving in both the House and the Senate to update and improve upon one of our nation's most important environmental and public health statutes.

The BPC stands ready to offer any assistance as you move forward in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Jason Grumet, President  
Bipartisan Policy Center