

July 25, 2007

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
XXX
Washington, DC

Dear Senator _____:

We are writing to express our opposition regarding S. 595 (Senator Frank Lautenberg, D-NJ), "The Toxics Right-to-Know Protection Act." In order to maintain a competitive position worldwide, the U.S. must balance the costs and benefits of regulations, particularly those affecting the beleaguered manufacturing sector. S. 595 would stop EPA's current implementation of reforms to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program. New forms are already in use which seek to gather information for the public while minimizing unnecessary burdens.

In issuing the final TRI Burden Reductions Rule (71 FR 76932, December 2006), EPA carefully balanced revisions to streamline the TRI reporting requirements while continuing to protect the public's right-to-know. Despite allegations made by S. 595 supporters, the TRI Burden Reduction Rule would:

- **Not affect public safety.** The reforms do not in any way change business' obligations to report hazardous material storage to fire departments and other emergency planners.
- **Not reduce the public's right to know.** Overall, 99% percent of all releases will still be reported in exactly the same manner. No businesses are exempted from reporting by this rule. EPA used the same methodology to develop this rule as they used during the Clinton Administration when it created the Form A in 1994.
- **Create an incentive for all businesses to reduce releases** and use preferred waste management methods by offering reduced paperwork for lower emissions.

EPA painstakingly considered Congressional concerns and stakeholder feedback in the development of the TRI Burden Reduction Rule. During the four years EPA spent carefully developing the burden reduction rule, they engaged stakeholders through multiple on-line dialogues, meetings, and formal rulemaking procedures. EPA also considered the concerns expressed by Congress by withdrawing consideration of changing the TRI reporting frequency.

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With the TRI Burden Reductions Rule, EPA has taken a step towards balancing the public's right to know with the need to reduce unnecessary burdens on the manufacturing sector. S. 595 would eliminate any such necessary improvements to the TRI program. We therefore urge you to oppose S.595 and ask for your support in allowing EPA to continue implementing these modest TRI reforms that do not jeopardize the public's right to know, or the quality of the TRI database.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council
American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute
American Iron and Steel Institute
Copper & Brass Fabricators Council
Council of Industrial Boiler Owners
IPC-Association Connecting Electronics Industries
National Association of Manufacturers
National Mining Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Paint and Coatings Association
Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorators
Specialty Graphic Imaging Association
Specialty Steel Industry of North America
Steel Manufacturers Association
Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association
The Consumer Specialty Products Association
The Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

July 25, 2007

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
XXX
Washington, DC

Dear Representative _____:

We are writing to express our opposition regarding H.R. 1055, "The Toxics Right-to-Know Protection Act." In order to maintain a competitive position worldwide, the U.S. must balance the costs and benefits of regulations, particularly those affecting the beleaguered manufacturing sector. H.R. 1055 would stop EPA's current implementation of reforms to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program. New forms are already in use which seek to gather information for the public while minimizing unnecessary burdens.

In issuing the final TRI Burden Reductions Rule (71 FR 76932, December 2006), EPA carefully balanced revisions to streamline the TRI reporting requirements while continuing to protect the public's right-to-know. Despite allegations made by H.R. 1055 supporters, the TRI Burden Reduction Rule would:

- **Not affect public safety.** The reforms do not in any way change business' obligations to report hazardous material storage to fire departments and other emergency planners.
- **Not reduce the public's right to know.** Overall, 99% percent of all releases will still be reported in exactly the same manner. No businesses are exempted from reporting by this rule. EPA used the same methodology to develop this rule as they used during the Clinton Administration when it created the Form A in 1994.
- **Create an incentive for all businesses to reduce releases** and use preferred waste management methods by offering reduced paperwork for lower emissions.

EPA painstakingly considered Congressional concerns and stakeholder feedback in the development of the TRI Burden Reduction Rule. During the four years EPA spent carefully developing the burden reduction rule, they engaged stakeholders through multiple on-line dialogues, meetings, and formal rulemaking procedures. EPA also considered the concerns expressed by Congress by withdrawing consideration of changing the TRI reporting frequency.

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With the TRI Burden Reductions Rule, EPA has taken a step towards balancing the public's right to know with the need to reduce unnecessary burdens on the manufacturing sector. H.R. 1055 would eliminate any such necessary improvements to the TRI program. We therefore urge you to oppose H.R. 1055 and ask for your support in allowing EPA to continue implementing these modest TRI reforms that do not jeopardize the public's right to know, or the quality of the TRI database.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council
American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute
American Iron and Steel Institute
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The Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce