

June 9, 2015

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The Honorable James Inhofe, Chairman
The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Ranking Member
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
SD-410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Boxer:

Congratulations to the Committee for the progress made on S. 697, The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. The Society of Toxicology (SOT) has completed its review of the most recent version. We have no further specific comments on the current version. The revised TSCA bill has strong, objective, scientific underpinnings, and will protect public health for years to come. We are heartened to see the inclusion of sound toxicological principles and risk concepts, including an emphasis on exposure as well as hazard, which are contained in the bill.

As Congress considers revising the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (TSCA; P.L. 94-469), the SOT, with more than 5,000 toxicology professionals in the United States and nearly 8,000 worldwide from 61 nations, strongly urges Congress to continue to ensure the language used in TSCA reform legislation:

1. Affords flexibility in selection of the best available science for generating and evaluating information used in the safety and risk assessment process.
2. Protects the authority of the US Environmental Protection Agency, working with the scientific community, to judge when and how to apply new techniques and methods.
3. Ensures the terms and concepts used in the legislative language that apply to the science of toxicology are consistent, accurate, and unambiguous.

SOT has commissioned a team of experts to be an educational resource for the Committee and to serve as a review panel of the bill on behalf of the Society. The Society hopes you will feel free to draw upon this Task Force as a resource to address science-based questions that the Committee might have in the future. Additionally, please contact SOT Headquarters via Marcia Lawson at marcia@toxicology.org if the Society can be of assistance to you.

On behalf of the Society, this letter is submitted for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Peter L. Goering, PhD, DABT, ATS
SOT 2015–2016 President