



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
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LONNIE R. STEPHENSON
International President

SAM J. CHILIA
International
Secretary-Treasurer

July 7, 2015

The Honorable
United States Senate
U.S. Senate Office Buildings
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the approximately 750,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I respectfully urge you to support and co-sponsor the *Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act* (S. 697), bipartisan legislation to improve and update the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

Introduced by Senators Tom Udall (D-NM) and David Vitter (R-LA), S. 697 will amend and strengthen Title I of TSCA in critical areas. It has been developed through ongoing bipartisan engagement since its initial introduction in 2013. Clearly, TSCA is not working as Congress intended. Fixing it presents an opportunity for cooperation benefiting the American people and economy.

The proposed legislation will strengthen TSCA by providing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with greater authority to protect public and worker health as well as the environment. In addition, it will provide improved regulatory certainty for chemical producers and consumers, and improve the availability of information about chemicals used in commerce. These improvements will help support growth in the U.S. chemical industry, as companies undertake a major new wave of facility investment; thus promoting innovation and job growth in construction, manufacturing, transportation and other key industries.

Furthermore, S. 697 will authorize EPA to require chemicals be screened before entering commerce and will create a register of chemicals in actual use. A workable, achievable system to classify chemicals as high or low priority for safety testing by EPA will be implemented and funded by a fee-based system. High priority chemicals will undergo additional safety evaluations and EPA will be able to take timely action against chemicals found harmful to human health. The legislation adds new protections for vulnerable populations defined to include workers.

In addition, progress has been made on the question of when federal action should preempt state action on high priority chemical regulation. The *Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act* will still give states the option to regulate under certain conditions, seek waivers from federal findings, propose



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chemicals for EPA high priority testing, and retain existing labeling warning requirements like California Proposition 65. Finally, the proposed legislation grandfathers existing regulations adopted before 2015.

In closing, I urge you to support and cosponsor the *Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act*, (S. 697) legislation that will improve and update TSCA.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lonnie Stephenson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lonnie Stephenson
International President

LRS:lgd