



News Release

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COALITION CAUTIONS HOUSE COMMITTEE ON DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS OF ‘SECURITY’ BILL

“[W]e strongly object to the Inherently Safer Technology (IST) provisions of this legislation that would allow the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to mandate that businesses employ specific product substitutions and processes. ... Decisions on chemical substitutions or changes in processes should be made by qualified professionals whose job it is to ensure safety at our facilities.”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – NPRA, the National Petrochemical & Refiners Association, today praised Congress for extending the current Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program without substantial modification in its passage of the FY 2010 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act. This extension of the CFATS program, which reflects the goals of the Obama Administration, will allow DHS to continue to fully implement existing facility security regulations. NPRA, however, with more than 20 other associations and organizations, also today sent a letter to House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman and Ranking Member Joe Barton expressing their opposition to H.R. 2868, the “Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009,” which would modify key elements of existing chemical security law.

“[W]e strongly object to the Inherently Safer Technology (IST) provisions of this legislation that would allow the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to mandate that businesses employ specific product substitutions and processes,” the coalition stated in its letter. **“These provisions would be significantly detrimental to the progress of existing chemical facility security regulations (the ‘CFATS’ program) and should not be included in this legislation. DHS should not be making engineering or business decisions for chemical facilities around the country when it should be focused instead on making our country more secure and protecting it from terrorist threats. Decisions on chemical substitutions or changes in processes should be made by qualified professionals whose job it is to ensure safety at our facilities. ...**

“We stand ready to work with the Committee and Congress towards the implementation of a responsible chemical facility security program.”

The letter’s signatories include:

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Petroleum Institute
American Trucking Associations
Chemical Producers and Distributors Association
Consumer Specialty Products Association
The Fertilizer Institute
Institute of Makers of Explosives
International Association of Refrigerated
Warehouses
International Liquid Terminals Association
International Warehouse Logistics Association

National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Manufacturers
National Grange of the Order of Patrons of
Husbandry
National Mining Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pest Management Association
National Petrochemical and Refiners Association
National Propane Gas Association
North American Millers’ Association
Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce