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April 14, 2016

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the three million men and women of North America's Building Trades Unions, I write to respectfully urge you and your fellow Members of Congress to move negotiations forward at an expedited pace to amend and strengthen the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

Following years of dedicated work, both the House and Senate have passed legislation to modernize TSCA by overwhelming bipartisan majorities. Now, this historic opportunity must not be lost to modernize the broken federal chemical safety law and provide greatly improved protections for workers, communities and the environment.

House and Senate negotiators should proceed to address any remaining areas of concern and draft a bill for the President's signature. We see no benefit to further delay. Our modern economy and millions of good jobs depend on access to the products of modern chemistry, with confidence that the products are safe to use. We need a strong TSCA to make sure that all chemicals are tested and that the Environmental Protection Agency will have the authority to appropriately regulate toxic chemicals without jumping through hoops.

Bringing TSCA into the 21st Century is also crucial to supporting new U.S. investments and jobs. The chemical industry is a fundamental component of U.S. economic leadership, job creation and scientific innovation. In the years ahead, a stronger federal chemical safety law will not only protect workers and the public from the potentially harmful effects of toxic chemicals, it will provide greater certainty to the manufacturers and users of chemicals in commerce.

The timing of this historic reform could not be better. America's chemical industry is undertaking a massive new wave of facility construction and expansion to capitalize on the new abundance of domestic natural gas from shale. This wave of domestic investment will create good middle class jobs for tens of thousands of skilled construction workers and strengthen our energy, manufacturing, transportation and high-tech sectors. Greater safety and greater certainty can go hand in hand.

Thank you for your leadership, and please let us know what we can do further in support of expediting TSCA reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean McGarvey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "M".

Sean McGarvey
President

cc: House Energy & Commerce Committee