

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEIL L. BRADLEY
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT &
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March 26, 2019

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce thanks you for holding the hearing, “Examining the Federal Response to the Risks Associated with Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).”

PFAS are a large and diverse class of chemicals with unique properties that have been used in a broad number of beneficial applications for many years. Heightened attention to potential health effects of certain PFAS compounds has understandably led to increased public concern and interest in new regulatory protections in this area.

The U.S. Chamber supports action to address these concerns, and is committed to proactively working with legislators, regulators, and all stakeholders to establish risk-based standards that protect human health and the environment. We believe collaboration and transparency are critical to any such efforts, and the government, industry, and the scientific community must work together to share knowledge and focus resources on the highest priorities based on actual risk, while utilizing existing regulatory processes to proactively address both current and future issues.

There are more than 4,000 PFAS class chemicals. The chemistries among these chemicals vary substantially and have different characteristics, profiles, and uses. Any federal action – legislation and regulation – should be undertaken on an individual chemical basis, rather than as a class. We also believe that science should guide decisions and neither legislation nor regulation should predetermine outcomes.

We also encourage the development of a consistent approach and clear timelines for assessing and regulating specific PFAS across all relevant federal agencies to ensure that government regulations, actions, and communications are consistent and coordinated for maximum effectiveness. Further, federal agencies should prioritize clear, science-based risk communication and regulatory transparency to ensure that the American public can better understand the actual risks associated with specific PFAS compounds.

We look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil L. Bradley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Neil L. Bradley

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works