Mr. Bryant Trick
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Europe and the Middle East
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street
Washington, DC 20520

Ms. Jennifer Knight
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Textiles, Consumer Goods, Materials Industries, Critical Minerals and Metals
International Trade Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dr. Michal Ilana Freedhoff
Assistant Administrator
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. Mark Abdoo
Associate Commissioner for Global Policy and Strategy
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

October 26, 2023

Subject: Request U.S. Government action to oppose the European Union's proposal to list D4, D5, D6 in Annex B of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Dear Mr. Trick, Ms. Knight, Dr. Freedhoff, Mr. Abdoo,

The undersigned U.S. business associations are deeply concerned about the European Commission's recent proposal to nominate D4, D5, and D6 siloxanes as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) under the Stockholm Convention. This decision directly challenges the Biden Administration's ambitious climate and healthcare objectives. We urge you to engage with your EU counterparts at all levels to ensure the decision-making process is fully informed of the downside impacts.

For years, D4, D5, and D6 have played a foundational role in various industries due to their unmatched resilience and cost-efficiency. Over 98% of their volumes are used as essential monomer intermediates in the manufacturing of silicone polymers. Siloxanes are integral to more than 100,000 applications. They are among the most extensively studied materials used in consumer and industrial applications, and the wealth of scientific analysis supports their safe use. Silicone polymers are not mere supplements to green technologies: they contribute to the reduction of CO2 emissions and are the lifeblood critical to many innovative solutions. They enhance the efficacy of electric vehicles, prolong the lifespan of solar panels, and are central to the realization of energy-efficient architectural designs. They are also fundamental to the healthcare sector, particularly in medical devices and diagnostic equipment. Any

global regulation of D4, D5 and D6 that restricts their import and export would result in significant global disruption of silicone polymer supply chains, resulting in shortages of key materials, lower product quality, and higher production and end unit costs.

The Biden Administration has consistently demonstrated a laudable commitment to pursuing both a robust climate agenda and improving healthcare standards. Designation of these essential silicone monomers as POPs would impede America's ability to achieve these vital objectives.

We appreciate the EU's objectives regarding environmental protection and responsible chemical management, but their current approach diverges from the prevailing scientific consensus. Brussels wants these siloxanes to be designated POPs in order to globalize existing EU restrictions on their use in personal care applications, even though less than 2% of global volumes of D4, D5 and D6 are used directly in such products. Yet a POP designation pursuant to the Stockholm Convention would amount to a global ban on the manufacture, use and transport of these substances, threatening the availability of all silicone materials. The EPA is conducting a thorough review of D4, and additional studies are also underway. Rushing towards a decision to designate these materials as POPs without the benefit of thorough, peer-reviewed research risks undermining U.S. and EU climate goals.

We urge the Biden Administration to advocate for an approach that is risk-based, scientifically rigorous, and consistent with climate and healthcare ambitions. We request that you engage with EU officials at all levels to make sure that the decision-making process is fully informed of the significant downside implications of such a designation.

We welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information and appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

ALLIANCE FOR AUTOMOTIVE INNOVATION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF Manufacturers

USCIB
UNITED STATES COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

American Chemistry Council

U.S. Chamber of Commerce