

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy
Hearing on “Testing of Chemicals and Reporting and Retention of Information under
TSCA Sections 4 & 8”
February 4, 2014**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today we continue our examination of TSCA with a focus on the nuts and bolts of chemical information. We want to develop a system for chemical regulation that is the gold standard for the world.

That doesn't mean the most precautionary, or the most commercially free-wheeling. It means a balanced system rooted in the best science and highest quality information so we can all be confident that if the chemical is in our stream of commerce it is safe, and commerce flows freely across state lines and across borders.

The foundation of that confidence should be information. And that information must be grounded in rigorous science, available for everyone to review, organized by category, and backed up by state-of-the-art testing when needed.

The technology of testing has vastly advanced since 1976 and it will continue to evolve. High power computers will simulate and sort exposure data and analyze chemicals in batches, by category, so that the time spent testing for biological effects and need to test on live organisms is reduced.

We've also got to make sure we don't go overboard and become obsessed with data collection for its own sake. There are thousands of chemicals in everyday life that are understood to pose no unreasonable risk when used as intended. We need to identify those, based on information we already have. Then we can focus our resources and information development on the ones we aren't so sure about.

It's often said that the job of the manager is to know when to stop taking data and start making decisions. That's the challenge for EPA under a reformed TSCA.

It's also the challenge we on the committee face as we transition from our examination of current law to developing our own ideas for how to modernize, after nearly four decades, this body of regulation. I look forward to working with all of our committee colleagues as we set out on that path.

Thank you, Chairman Shimkus, Mr. Tonko, and all the subcommittee members for the hard work you've already put in. You've stayed focused through these hearings and developed the policy expertise that will benefit each of us in our deliberations. It's hard work that attracts little publicity, but in the long run, our world will be better for it.

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