

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy
Hearing on “The Chemicals in Commerce Act”
March 12, 2014**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today is an important milestone in our efforts to modernize current law regulating the management of U.S. chemicals – a law that has been on the books since 1976. The Discussion Draft before us, “the Chemicals in Commerce Act,” begins our committee conversation on how to craft reforms to our nation’s chemical regulatory system. We have two objectives: to increase public confidence in the safety of chemicals that are in U.S. markets, and to streamline commerce among states and with other countries to further our manufacturing renaissance.

Put simply, the Chemicals in Commerce Act is a jobs bill. Why? Just put yourself in the shoes of someone contemplating whether to invest in a new factory that produces or uses chemicals and what location maximizes opportunity. With options that span the globe, one would look critically at three factors to help in the decision: 1) the cost and supply of feedstocks (especially oil and gas); 2) availability of capable and reliable workers; and 3) ease of market access.

Market access has two parts: first, is buyer confidence in the product, the and second is market rules free of trade restrictions.

The Chemicals in Commerce Act will improve confidence in chemical products because EPA will apply sound science to its safety determinations.

If EPA determines a chemical does pose risks, EPA will detail those risks and will write a rule placing any necessary requirements or restrictions on it, which will apply in all 50 states. This will allow producers to operate in a seamless U.S. market.

So let’s go back to the investor’s decision. Access to oil and gas? The U.S. is looking very good. Reliable workforce? Our workers are the best and many are available right now. Market access? The Chemicals in Commerce Act completes the package, giving the USA green lights on all three factors.

We need to do all we can to promote America’s manufacturing sector and create jobs. This bill will help create manufacturing jobs in not only those plants that manufacture chemicals, but also in plants that use them to make cars, computer chips, and thousands of other goods.

This bill is good news for jobs, for the economy, and for a safer America. Let’s roll up our sleeves and get it done.

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