

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy
Hearing on Discussion Draft of the Chemicals in Commerce Act
April 29, 2014**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Our work to reform TSCA has come a long way. Member interest and direct involvement, on a bipartisan basis, has been encouraging and helpful. Today we will get some constructive input from the administration, which is vital on any issue as important and complex as TSCA reform.

While we have made changes from our earlier drafts of the legislation, our overarching objectives remain the same: we want to reinforce public confidence in the safety of chemical substances contained in a wide variety of products we encounter every day, and we want to ensure the free flow of commerce among states and with our trading partners.

A key focus of the legislation is on so-called "existing chemicals." These include the thousands of chemicals that have been on the market for decades, which have not gone through the TSCA new-chemical review process. Some of these chemicals are particularly high priority, especially given human exposure to them. The draft legislation before us today is aimed at initiating a systematic process to review those chemicals and determine which uses of them are safe and whether we need any requirements or restrictions.

That workload requires both a high level of expertise and effective program management at the Environmental Protection Agency. That's why we are especially glad to have Assistant Administrator Jim Jones with us today. We appreciate the technical assistance EPA has provided thus far, and we want to continue working closely with the agency as we complete work on this legislation.

We also welcome our stakeholder panel. We need to hear from them how some of our ideas for structuring the legislation will play out in the real world. Does it reinforce public confidence in chemical safety? Does it encourage innovation and economic growth? We welcome constructive suggestions.

I thank Mr. Shimkus for his leadership on this issue and efforts to find bipartisan common ground. This law has not been updated in nearly 40 years. It has been a challenging task, but this draft bill gets us even closer toward our objective of a commonsense law that protects the public health and further encourages our manufacturing renaissance.

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