

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000  
202/463-5310

November 19, 2014

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, supports H.R. 4795, the "Promoting New Manufacturing Act," which would help improve transparency and the accountability of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the permitting process for the construction and modification of factories and other industrial projects.

Improving and streamlining the permitting process – one of the Chamber's regulatory and legislative priorities – is critical for investment, development, and growth of the economy. For example, according to the American Chemistry Council, as of September 2014, 197 projects involving new chemical facilities and expansions of existing plants and valued at \$125 billion have been announced since last year. An essential component of these projects moving forward will be the environmental permitting process to which H.R. 4795 would bring commonsense reforms. Specifically, this bill would require EPA to do the following with respect to preconstruction permits for major stationary sources:

- Publish information regarding the estimated number of permits issued annually and timelines for making final permit decisions;
- Issue implementing guidance and regulations simultaneously when establishing new or revised air quality standards affecting the permitting process; and
- Report annually to Congress on actions being undertaken by the agency to expedite the processing of permit applications.

H.R. 4795 would be an important step in improving the federal environmental permitting process and reinforcing this country's commitment to developing and building infrastructure projects and creating jobs. The Chamber urges you to vote for H.R. 4795, the "Promoting New Manufacturing Act." **The Chamber strongly supports H.R. 4795 and may consider votes on, or in relation to, this bill in our annual *How They Voted* scorecard.**

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten