

April 29, 2014

The Honorable Michael McCaul (R-TX)
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bennie Thompson (D-MS)
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Meehan (R-PA)
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity,
Infrastructure Protection and Security
Technologies
H2-117 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Yvette Clarke (D-NY)
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity,
Infrastructure Protection and Security
Technologies
H2-117 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul, Ranking Member Thompson, Chairman Meehan, and Ranking Member Clarke:

We, the undersigned organizations would like to express our support for H.R. 4007, the CFATS Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014 and urge the House Committee on Homeland Security to quickly consider and pass the bill. H.R. 4007 is a streamlined bill that provides a three year authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program and guidance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on key issues of chemical facility security.

The bill addresses several important policy goals. First, it provides a multi-year authorization to allow DHS to confidently implement CFATS and industry to make important investments with the certainty that goes along with knowing the program will be authorized. The current practice of year-to-year extensions, or worse, short-term continuing resolutions through the appropriations process, is a destabilizing force in the implementation and investment process.

Secondly, the legislation also addresses some of the major impediments to completing site security plans and full implementation of the program. It addresses certain concerns surrounding the personnel surety requirements needed for access; gives covered facilities the ability to meet site security plans through alternate security plans approved by DHS and an option to use 3rd parties as inspectors; improves Congressional oversight regarding the tiering methodology; and ensures better coordination with state and local officials.

We recognize the complexities in implementing a program like CFATS and are fully aware of some of the flaws in management exposed over the past few years. This multi-year authorization will give DHS the time and stability it needs to improve its implementation, but at the same time, will ensure that Congress has the ability to monitor the program and make any necessary changes to it before the next authorization.

The organizations and companies listed below represent thousands of American businesses that employ millions of American workers. We are manufacturers, producers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers in agriculture, chemistry, energy, forest products, medicine, and other businesses that form our nation's infrastructure. We support H.R. 4007, and urge the Committee on Homeland Security to quickly consider and pass this important legislation.

Thank you for your timely consideration.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association
American Forest & Paper Association
American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Gas Association
American Petroleum Institute
American Trucking Associations
Association of Oil Pipe Lines
CropLife America
Edison Electric Institute
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Institute of Makers of Explosives
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses
International Liquid Terminals Association
International Warehouse Logistics Association
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Manufacturers
National Mining Association
National Pest Management Association
Petroleum Marketers Association of America
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

CC: Members of the House Committee on Homeland Security