



The American Chemistry Council (ACC) is a national trade association representing chemicals and plastics manufacturers in the United States, including member companies in the State of Vermont. The chemical industry directly employs over 1,300 people in Vermont and indirectly supports another 2,000 jobs and generates over \$1 million in taxes, supporting the needs of Vermont and its residents.

Over 96% of all manufactured goods are directly touched by the business of chemistry, making this industry an essential part of every facet of our nation's economy. Chemistry provides significant economic benefits in every state including Vermont. Thanks to chemistry, our lives are healthier, safer more sustainable and productive than before.

ACC and its members have long been involved in ensuring that manufactured chemicals are safe for their intended use. ACC has worked with industry, government at all levels, public interest groups and scientific experts on standards and practices to protect human health and the environment from potential risks associated with the use of some chemicals.

However, legislation such as SB 103 does not provide the citizens of Vermont any measureable increase in safety and will only confuse the citizens of Vermont about what may truly pose a risk – all at great cost to taxpayer's and local businesses.

In 2014, the Vermont Legislature passed SB 239. It created a regulatory system that imposed a new burden on manufacturers of children's products. The initial reporting required under this system has just only begun, and the legislature is now contemplating a vast expansion of this program, to all consumer products instead of just children's products. Unfortunately, there are fundamental flaws that exist with the current structure, and those problems will only be compounded under SB 103 .

The underpinnings of this new program unfortunately take a very short, narrow, and restricted view of safety as it pertains to chemicals and their use in consumer products. The law contains a list of chemicals, and focuses only on hazard characteristics. Based solely on this one aspect of a chemical's profile, the legislation wants to in effect place any consumer products – thousands of products, potentially – on a "black list," and make them subject to regulation and elimination. No one can make an informed decision as to the safety of a product solely by looking at the hazard characteristics of one component of that product. Being that the goal of this program is to better inform the citizens of Vermont, taking the approach in this bill, one that only leads to misinformation and confusion, gives no one a better understanding of what is truly safe.

With so much discussion in recent months about using good science in regulation, it's surprising that this bill proposes a regulatory structure that totally ignores basic scientific and safety assessment principles. In January of this year, the US Center for Disease Control released the fourth *National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals*. The report is a series of ongoing assessments of the U.S. population's exposure to environmental chemicals by measuring chemicals in people's blood and urine, also called biomonitoring. The CDC makes one point very clear regarding the report: "The presence of an environmental chemical in people's blood or urine does not mean that it will cause effects or disease. The toxicity of a chemical is related to its dose or concentration, in addition to a person's individual susceptibility. Small amounts may be of no health

consequence, whereas larger amounts may cause adverse health effects.” Based on the CDC’s statement, if the presence of a chemical in a person is not evidence that it will cause harm, how much more so the case is when the chemical is merely found in a product that person uses. Yet, the legislation only focuses on the presence of a chemical in a product, and totally ignores other critical factors, such as the actual chemical content, route and degree of exposure and potential of harm, that must be included in a truly science-based safety assessment. Fully informed decision making is vital to ensure that safe products remain on the market and are not stigmatized as a consequence of the proposed new requirements.

Pursuing a path that lacks solid scientific grounding and only serves to misinform is even harder to understand when we look at the progress of the State of Vermont in implementing the existing law. Yet the legislature is now contemplating a drastic expansion of the program that would require the generation of an enormous amount of data, at significant cost to industry, and the state has no means of dealing with it, let alone the funding or ability to perform the analytical requirements of the program.

Imposing requirements with enormous costs and no real benefits, in hopes of building on a program that is far from being proven successful and that the State does not have the resources to fully implement is simply not good policy or a prudent use of taxpayer money.

On behalf of our members, we urge you to support sound science, useful and accurate information and economic growth in Vermont, and oppose SB 103. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

