

# WEIDMANN

March 14, 2018

The Honorable Janssen Willhoit  
House of Representative  
State of Vermont

Subject: S.197

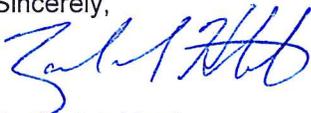
Dear Mr. Willhoit,

We at Weidmann, a responsible and sustainable business in Vermont, are very proud of our record of providing a safe and healthy environment for our employees and community by working closely with OSHA, VTOSHA, EPA, and State environmental organizations. As a regular course of business, we advance our environmental, health and safety (EH&S) programs using minute details related to chemical type, hazard, exposure thresholds, protective equipment, and risk mitigation. Precisely the information developed by the organizations listed above to establish regulations. Unfortunately, these fundamental subject details are absent from S.197, which if passed will only lead to uncertainty for businesses, with increased risk and cost of doing business in the State of Vermont and without providing a substantial public benefit.

Financial liability for any claim of personal injury or medical monitoring cost that are associated with releases below levels set by state, federal environmental or other health standards "moves the line" which businesses base their EH&S investments on - seemingly without scientific evidence. Also, holding companies liable for medical monitoring costs even if an alleged exposure is within background exposure levels will impact affordability of liability insurance at the least, and force companies to develop unnecessary engineered solutions to problems that do not exist – at levels completely unaffordable.

There are certainly a number of legal and regulatory options already available to citizens and the state to hold companies responsible for chemical releases that cause harm. Our operations in other States see no similar legislation, adding another comparative increase to the cost of doing business in the State of Vermont. S. 197 is too far reaching and will unnecessarily increase costs and operational uncertainty for businesses working in Vermont.

Sincerely,



Zachariah Hatch  
Vice President of Manufacturing

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