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March 10, 2015

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the North American Building Trades Unions (NABTU) and nearly three million skilled crafts professionals who comprise the 14 national and international unions we represent, I write in support of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (CS21), introduced by Senator Tom Udall and Senator David Vitter.

This bill will amend Title I of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) which regulates the safety of chemicals in commerce. Clearly, the TSCA has not worked as Congress intended. It must be clarified and strengthened. CS21 meets these needs in critical areas. We respectfully request that you co-sponsor and support this needed legislation.

Today, this legislative effort is the result of a thorough, ongoing, bipartisan effort in the Senate. As you know, we have supported this essential work since 2013 – because it will strengthen EPA's authority to protect public and worker health and the environment, and provide needed regulatory certainty to the makers and users of chemical products. Modernizing TSCA takes on additional importance as the U.S. chemical industry undertakes large-scale reinvestment in domestic production facilities that will generate good jobs and growth.

CS21 will authorize EPA to require that chemicals are screened before entering commerce and will establish a workable prioritization system for testing high priority chemicals, which will require additional safety assessments. This effort has added new protections for vulnerable populations, including workers, and makes chemical information more readily available, though more work may be needed to ensure the confidentiality of certain information. The new fee structure will provide EPA with the resources needed to keep high priority chemical testing robust. Finally, while progress has been made in resolving the issue of when federal action may affect state action on chemical regulation, providing states with avenues to continue regulating under certain conditions, additional bipartisan action may be necessary to finally resolve this issue.

We look forward to working with you to resolve any outstanding issues in support of passing CS21.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Sean McGarvey
President