



April 28, 2015

The Honorable James Inhofe, Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
205 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Reference: Breast Cancer Fund Opposition to S.697

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Ranking member Boxer,

I write to you again with a heavy heart, representing the concerns of millions of women and men, young and senior who have endured breast cancer in this country alone; a quarter of a million more will be diagnosed in 2015 and over 40,000 will die in just one of the years that has been spent considering TSCA reform. The Vitter/Udall bill S.697, its newly crafted 'substitute' version being proffered by Senators Merkley, Whitehouse and Booker – both claiming to be comprehensive reform of TSCA. Myriad amendments have also been offered to bring the bill to a place where it can live up to the names it bears.

Many people have worked with good intentions to protect the environment and public health – to not only strengthen a failed law but to give the agency the tools, resources, mandate and support of the U.S. Congress and the people of this country whose health is degraded in direct proportion to our failure to protect our environmental public health. It is quite obvious, however that countervailing forces had a strong hand in mitigating those critical core values. The bill simply does not get the job done.

**The Breast Cancer Fund stands firm in our opposition to S.697 and the S.697 substitute in their current form unless and until the promise of true TSCA reform is achieved.**

As you know, the Breast Cancer Fund has been working for nearly two decades to advance scientific research on the causes of breast cancer – with a focus on unsafe chemical exposures -- and to translate that science into public policy, public education and business accountability campaigns. Our 70,000 supporters and over 100,000 citizen activists work with many networks and coalitions including Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, Coming Clean, Californians for a Healthy and Green Economy and the SAFER states. Our constituents want real reform.

It is our sincere hope that as the TSCA reform debate continues that you will receive the amendments offered as a clear path to achieving a truly bi-partisan, major reform of our broken chemicals system.

The importance of state laws cannot be underestimated and until and unless a robust program at the EPA demonstrates its capacity (and resources) to act on more than a handful of chemicals, any change that allows for preemption of the ability of the states to protect the health of their citizens is unacceptable. State programs must be allowed to work at their full force unimpeded by complex new requirements. If EPA has the proper mandate, adequate funding, oversight and public engagement, we can turn the tide – but any form of federal preemption is premature at this time.

The “Regulatory Void” only compounds the preemption issues and appears intended to provide a safe haven for unsafe chemicals.

S.697 and the S.697 Substitute being considered continue to have major flaws in the area of transparency: confidential business information (CBI) remains a cumbersome burden, an obstacle to preventing diseases linked to chemical exposures, *and* is antithetical to basic Right-to-Know principles. Along the same lines the prohibition on minimum data sets remains an issue of great concern to those of us working in the health field – it creates delay, obstruction and unnecessarily burdens the EPA and its ability to do its work.

We would like nothing more than to celebrate real TSCA reform. We are not there yet and will continue to oppose S.697 until the bill is true reform.

Thank you for your consideration. We stand ready to work with you to give the American people the meaningful, health-protective TSCA reform they want and deserve.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Rizzo, R.N.  
President & CEO

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