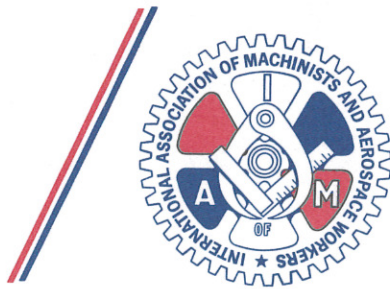


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

July 18, 2013

RE: Support for the Chemical Safety Improvement Act, S. 1009

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, I respectfully ask that you consider co-sponsoring the Chemical Safety Improvement Act of 2013 ("CSIA") S. 1009, introduced by the late Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Senator David Vitter (R-LA). This bi-partisan bill will amend and most importantly strengthen Title I of the Toxic Substances Control Act ("TSCA") regulating safety of chemicals in commerce.

Previous efforts to modernize TSCA since it passed in 1976 have failed for lack of compromise and bi-partisan support. Now, the CSIA has broken this pattern and is generating balanced support. It is a workable compromise that is politically achievable, providing the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") with essential tools to effectively regulate chemicals in commerce.

The CSIA will give EPA the authority to require that chemicals be screened before entering commerce. In addition, high priority chemicals will require additional safety evaluations and EPA will be given clear authority to take timely action against chemicals found to be harmful to human health. A strengthened federal chemical regulatory system will protect health, the environment, and allow the U.S. chemical industry to maintain its global leadership, innovate and provide good jobs. We think S. 1009 meets these fundamental requirements.

As a representative of workers in both the Chemical and Freight Rail Industries, we believe the CSIA will improve federal chemical safety regulation to the benefit of the workers, public health and the environment. Again, I urge you to co-sponsor this very important legislation. To do so, please contact Jan Brunner in Senator Manchin's office at (202) 224-3954 or email jan_brunner@manchin.senate.gov or Dimitri Karakitsos in Senator Vitter's office at (202) 224-6176 or email dimitri_karakitsos@epw.senate.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President