



Dear Senator,

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society Legislative Fund, and our millions of supporters nationwide, we are writing to urge you to vote in favor of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2576, the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act. **Since this bill is a priority for our organizations, if there is a recorded Senate vote on it, we expect to count that on the 2016 Humane Scorecard.**

We are pleased that this package has garnered such strong bipartisan support led by Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Boxer, and Senators Vitter and Udall. And Bonnie Lautenberg has played a significant role in carrying on this legacy issue for Senator Lautenberg. The Administration also voiced its support for the package in a [Statement of Administration Policy](#) issued yesterday.

The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act reauthorizes the 40-year-old Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). This bill contains unprecedented language reducing the use of animals for chemical testing and thus promoting the use of best available science for regulating chemicals. Its inclusion of strong language on this subject will provide momentum to continually update the science and reduce animal use.

When it comes to human and environmental health, our historical animal testing-based approach is fundamentally flawed; the science incorporated into the original TSCA decades ago has stymied EPA's ability to regulate chemicals. To generate screening data for a single chemical, it currently takes three years and \$6 million,<sup>1</sup> and the results are often highly variable, difficult to interpret (leading to years of argument and dispute), and not easily applied to regulatory action (often leading the Agency to ask for more and more data, nearly all of which is inconclusive) – hence EPA has regulated only a handful of chemicals in 40 years.

Because of the failure of this testing approach, the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) was asked to come up with a better way. The approach NAS recommended capitalizes on our vast knowledge of chemistry and biology and modern technology to design highly reliable tests that measure chemical effects on critical biological pathways.<sup>2</sup> This revelation has resulted in an emerging consensus among scientists and regulators around the world, including the EPA, that this forward-looking approach is the best regulatory framework for the future.<sup>3</sup> It will be much less costly, faster, and yield more reliable results. This new scientific approach will also be far more humane, as it involves a shift away from animal testing. By requiring the reduction of animal use, H.R. 2576 spurs the implementation of the best available science, which will dramatically improve EPA's ability to responsibly and more efficiently regulate chemicals and more meaningfully protect the American public from hazardous substances.

The EPA agrees that the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act will lead to better regulatory decisions. In a statement last week regarding the draft bill, EPA said: **“The [bill] is a clear improvement over current law and is largely consistent with the administration’s principles for TSCA Reform. Critically, the bill would address the fundamental flaws that have hindered EPA’s ability to protect human health and the environment from chemical risks.”**

Toxicity testing is a particularly cruel use of animals, often involving poisoning until death or some disease state is achieved. It is important to note that 95% of animals that are used in research, including chemical testing, are not protected by law in the U.S. (mice, rats, and birds are specifically excluded from provisions of the Animal Welfare Act). This is in dramatic contrast to the situation in the world’s largest economy, the European Union, where all vertebrates (and some non-vertebrates) are protected in all scientific uses. The European Commission<sup>4</sup> requires that non-animal methods are preferred, and every procedure using animals must be submitted for approval by the government. In addition, the European Union’s toxic chemicals law stipulates reduction of animal testing as an overarching principle, and requires use of all approaches not involving animals first, with animal testing only as a last resort. The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act provides the first such protection for animals used in testing in the U.S.

The core elements of language to minimize animal testing have also received broad support from stakeholders, including the Environmental Working Group, Environmental Defense Fund, Consumer Specialty Products Association, American Chemistry Council, and Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.

We strongly urge your boss to vote in favor of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2576, a landmark opportunity to save millions of animals while addressing key health and environmental concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wayne Pacelle  
President and CEO  
The Humane Society of the United States

Michael Markarian  
President  
Humane Society Legislative Fund

1. Schmidt, C. 2009. J Natl Cancer Inst. 101 (13): 910-912.
2. NRC (National Research Council). Toxicity Testing in the Twenty-first Century: A Vision and a Strategy. Committee on Toxicity and Assessment of Environmental Agents, National Research Council. ISBN: 0-309-10989-2, 146 pages (2007).
3. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2009. Strategic Plan for Evaluating the Toxicity of Chemicals. Office of the Science Advisor, Science Policy Council. <http://tinyurl.com/http-epa-strategic-plan>
4. Directive 2010/63/EU. [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab\\_animals/legislation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/legislation_en.htm)