

1 Good Morning, Madam Chairperson, Ranking Member Vitter and Members
2 of the Committee.

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4 My name is Manny Ehrlich and I very much appreciate the chance to appear
5 before you today as President Obama's nominee to be a Member of the
6 Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. I have dedicated my
7 entire career to protecting health and safety through prevention and
8 investigation of chemical incidents, and I am humbled and honored to have
9 been nominated to a position that will enable me to apply that experience in
10 service to our country. I currently reside in northern New Jersey but very
11 much look forward to relocating to the Washington area should I receive the
12 honor of confirmation.

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15 I have spent over 50 years in the chemical industry in a variety of positions
16 of increasing responsibility, ranging from analytical bench chemist to vice
17 president of health, safety and labor relations to general manager of the
18 largest hazardous materials training emergency response academy in the
19 United States. I am currently a health, safety and environmental consultant
20 with a broad range of clients across the country. I spent much of my career

21 with BASF Corporation, one of the largest chemical companies in the world,
22 where I progressed from plant management to leading emergency response
23 efforts across North America. In that capacity, I responded to, managed and
24 investigated numerous hazardous materials incidents in the United States,
25 Canada and Mexico.

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27 During my career, I concentrated heavily on programs both inside and
28 outside of companies that helped improve overall chemical safety. I have
29 been very active in the American Chemistry Council (formerly known as the
30 Chemical Manufacturers Association), participating in or leading many
31 committees whose primary objectives were to develop and implement
32 programs designed to train and educate members of the chemical community
33 in improving response and protecting safety. Having matured (which is a
34 euphemism for aged) to positions beyond the point of wearing personal
35 protective equipment, I have spent the last 15 to 20 years sharing lessons
36 learned throughout my career with members of the chemical industry, and
37 emergency responders. My focus has primarily centered on accident
38 avoidance and prevention, incident investigation and root cause
39 determinations, which includes the critical practice of updating tools and
40 techniques required to address each of these areas. I am currently the on-call

41 chemist for the Chemical Transportation Emergency Response Center (also
42 known as CHEMTREC) in the U.S., a 24-hour service that assists
43 responders on the scene of chemical incidents. I am also a member of the
44 National Fire Protection Association's committee that develops competency
45 standards for chemical emergency responders. My background in chemistry,
46 engineering and education has allowed me take very complex subjects and
47 present them to personnel at all levels in an easily understood manner so that
48 maximum learning may be garnered by the audience.

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50 The CSB is nationally and internationally recognized for its excellence in
51 investigations and preparation of technical information relative to their
52 investigations. If confirmed, I will rely upon my half century of experience
53 to further the critical CSB mission in order to support the excellent work
54 done by the board and its investigators. I have long shared their goals of
55 making the chemical industry a safer place to work and protecting
56 communities.

57 Early in my career in the industry, I experienced the tragic loss of life of
58 workers in facility accidents where I was employed. I made a commitment
59 then and there to dedicate my career to preventing such accidents from
60 happening to anyone else.

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62 Thus my focus across the years has continued to revolve around the
63 commitment to do all within my power to assure that employees return from
64 work at days end in the same condition that they reported to work that day.

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66 Finally, this nomination is a watershed moment in my career. I can think of
67 no better way, if confirmed, to continue to have a positive impact on the
68 safety of the chemical industry, its workers and neighboring communities,
69 by applying my skills and abilities for the betterment of my country.

70 I want to thank xxx and xxxx for traveling to Washington with me today to
71 and for Tim Butters from PHMSA ET AL provide moral support.

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73 Thank you again for allowing me to appear before you today, and I look
74 forward to taking your questions.