



Why modernizing TSCA,



a broken and outdated environmental law, can't wait.

What is TSCA?

TSCA stands for the Toxic Substances Control Act, a law enacted in 1976 to regulate chemical substances and mixtures in commerce. The law was created to provide the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to require reporting, record keeping, and testing of chemicals, as well as to restrict the production, importation, use, and disposal of substances that EPA determined pose a risk to health or the environment.

Why is TSCA important?

More than 96 percent of all manufactured goods are directly touched by chemistry. TSCA is designed to regulate chemical substances that are being used to make millions of everyday products and materials, items such as automobiles, carpet, and household cleaners. As a law, TSCA has a wide-reaching and significant impact on the health of Americans, our environment, and our national economy.

Why does TSCA need updating?

TSCA is the only major environmental law that has not yet been significantly updated since its enactment. TSCA became law in 1976 under President Gerald Ford. In the decades since, it is clear TSCA has not operated as originally intended and has largely been viewed as a failure despite its good intentions.

In the past 40 years, EPA has only been able to effectively require testing of a few hundred of the chemicals in use. The agency has also encountered significant barriers in attempting to restrict or ban certain chemicals or uses. The most cited example of EPA's inability to implement TSCA was its unsuccessful effort in the 1980's to restrict the chemical substance asbestos. EPA's ban was overturned in court in 1991, and since then, EPA has not succeeded in using the law to regulate any existing chemicals.

What's the solution?

The bipartisan **Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act** was introduced as S.697 on March 20, 2015 by Sens. Tom Udall (D-NM) and David Vitter (R-La.). It was passed out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee by a strong bipartisan vote of 15-5 on April 28. It is currently cosponsored by 52 members of the U.S. Senate made up of 29 Republicans and 23 Democrats that represent a total of 33 states.

The Senate's solution to modernize TSCA will achieve a more predictable and uniform federal regulatory program. Since its introduction, the legislation has garnered the strong support of a wide range of stakeholders from the business, environmental, labor, and public health communities. This includes:

- Environmental Defense Fund
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- March of Dimes
- National Association of Manufactures
- National Wildlife Federation
- North American Building Trades Unions
- Moms Clean Air Force
- American Chemistry Council
- Humane Society
- American Farm Bureau Federation
- International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
- Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
- Alliance of Automobile Manufactures