

Major Concerns in the Udall-Vitter Bill

Our bill will regulate – and in some cases phase out – the most dangerous chemicals out of the 80,000 in existence today. Of these chemicals, more than 1,000 present significant public health impacts and require priority attention. The Boxer-Markey bill's formula guarantees action on hundreds of these dangerous chemicals: the Udall Vitter bill only provides for the assessment of just 25.

The Boxer-Markey bill directly addresses one of the most dangerous chemicals known to humankind – a chemical that takes 10,000 lives a year – asbestos. The standard in the old law was too weak to ban even asbestos, and now the Udall-Vitter bill keeps the same failed core standard. The Udall-Vitter bill doesn't even mention the word asbestos, and experts say that regulation of asbestos under the Udall-Vitter bill will never happen.

We specifically address children's cancer clusters and chemicals that build up in your body – known as persistent bioaccumulative and toxic chemicals. There is no mention of this in the Udall-Vitter bill. The bill also does not specifically address whether a toxic chemical is stored near drinking water and might spill, like what happened last year in West Virginia.

We allow the states to continue their extraordinary work to protect their people. That is a stark difference from the Udall-Vitter bill, which eviscerates the rights of the states to act to protect their people from toxic and cancer-causing chemicals.