

November 2, 2006

Dear Senator:

In order to maintain a competitive position worldwide and retain our manufacturing sector jobs, America must carefully consider the benefit and costs associated with our regulatory structure. We therefore urge you to set aside the Solis-Pallone language contained in H.R. 5386, the House Interior Appropriations bill, and allow EPA to carefully consider all aspects of proposed reforms to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program.

In September 2005, the EPA issued a proposed rule to revise TRI reporting requirements with a goal of achieving regulatory compliance in a manner that was less burdensome while balancing the public's right to know. Despite alarmist claims, the proposed rule would:

- **Not reduce the public's right to know.** The proposed reforms would impact less than 1% of all releases into the environment. Overall, 99% percent of all releases will still be reported in exactly the same manner.
- **Not affect public safety.** The proposed reforms do not in any way change business obligations to report hazardous material storage to fire departments and other emergency planners.
- **Create an incentive for all businesses to reduce releases** so that they can utilize the shorter and less burdensome TRI reporting Form A

On behalf of small and medium-sized business owners who support regulatory improvement, we are writing to express our support for allowing the EPA to continue balancing the public right-to-know with the need to reduce the burden of regulation, especially for small businesses.

Small and medium manufacturers support environmental stewardship efforts - in particular, those based in common sense and sound science. We ask for your support in allowing the EPA to continue examining appropriate reforms to lessen the reporting burden under the Toxics Release Inventory while maintaining the availability of public information. We urge Congress to allow that process to continue and urge you to set aside the language contained in the Solis-Pallone amendment.

Sincerely,

Copper and Brass Fabricators Council, Inc.
Consumer Specialty Products Association
IPC – The Association Connecting Electronics Industries
National Federation of Independent Businesses
National Paint and Coatings Association
National Association of Manufacturers
Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorators
Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association
Treated Wood Council