

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 18, 2016

Congressman Mike Shimkus  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Environment and Economy  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Building  
Washington, DC 20015

Congressman Paul Tonko  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Environment and Economy  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2322 Rayburn House Building  
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Chairman Shimkus and Ranking Member Tonko:

Thank you for your leadership in the creation and passage of the Toxic Substances Control Act Modernization Act, HR 2576. As you know, this bill is a carefully crafted legislative effort to bring bipartisan support to the challenge of updating TSCA. We are writing to you today to ask the you stand firm during conference negotiations and maintain the House passed solution to state law pre-emption issues.

We represent states that have taken action on chemical regulation. Representing diverse districts all across the country, we are concerned that the Senate version of this legislation overturns critical laws that have passed, often overwhelmingly, in our state legislatures. States have listened to their residents and determined that there were compelling reasons to regulate chemicals beyond the current TSCA statute. We believe that the House language in HR 2576 respects the sovereignty of states while recognizing the need for a strong federal role in the regulation of toxic chemicals. The House clearly rejected, by a vote of 398-1, the idea of early "preemption" of the state laws, which would prohibit states from enforcing their laws on toxic chemicals for up to 4 years.

We have different reasons for supporting these state laws ranging from health and safety concerns, to discomfort with a larger role for EPA, and support for states' rights to regulate their own health standards. Regardless of the reason, we are unified in agreeing that the House language on this matter in HR 2576 is the best path forward as a TSCA reform bill is debated.

We respectfully and firmly ask you to include the House passed language and reject any effort to create a "pre-emption pause" in the TSCA Modernization Act, or any other proposal on this issue to be brought to the full House.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

  
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

  
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



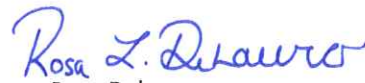
Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

  
Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress

  
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

  
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

CC: Speaker Paul Ryan  
Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi  
Rep Fred Upton, Chairman of House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Rep Frank Pallone, Ranking Member of House Energy and Commerce Committee