

December 3, 2014

Dear Member of the U.S. Senate:

We, the undersigned organizations would like to express our support for H.R. 4007, the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, and urge you to support the bill as well. H.R. 4007 is a streamlined bill that provides a four year authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program and guidance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on key issues of chemical facility security.

The bill addresses several important policy goals. First, it provides a multi-year authorization to allow DHS to confidently implement CFATS and industry to make important investments with the certainty that goes along with knowing the program will be authorized. The current practice of year-to-year extensions, or worse, short-term continuing resolutions through the appropriations process, is a destabilizing force in the implementation and investment process.

Secondly, the legislation also addresses some of the major impediments to completing site security plans and full implementation of the program. It addresses certain concerns surrounding the personnel surety requirements needed for access; gives covered facilities the ability to meet site security plans through alternate security plans approved by DHS and an option to use third parties as inspectors; improves Congressional oversight regarding the tiering methodology; and ensures better coordination with state and local officials. It also provides a mechanism for expedited approval for lower-tiered facilities.

We recognize the complexities in implementing a program like CFATS and are fully aware of some of the flaws in management exposed over the past few years. This multi-year authorization will give DHS the time and stability it needs to improve its implementation, but at the same time, will ensure that Congress has the ability to monitor the program and make any necessary changes to it before the next authorization.

The organizations listed below represent thousands of American businesses that employ millions of American workers. We are manufacturers, producers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers in agriculture, chemistry, energy, and other businesses that form our nation's infrastructure. This program was created in the wake of September 11th to ensure the security of our nation's critical infrastructure, and recent world events have reminded us that we must continue to remain vigilant. A vote for this bill is a vote for improving security.

We support H.R. 4007, and urge the Senate to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association

American Chemistry Council

American Coatings Association

American Gas Association

American Petroleum Institute

American Trucking Associations

Association of Oil Pipe Lines

Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology

CropLife America

Edison Electric Institute

International Liquid Terminals Association

International Warehouse Logistics Association

National Agricultural Aviation Association

National Association of Chemical Distributors

National Association of Manufacturers

National Mining Association

Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association

Petroleum Marketers Association of America

Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates

U.S. Chamber of Commerce