

September 5, 2017

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Ratcliffe
Chairman
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and
Infrastructure Protection
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cedric Richmond
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and
Infrastructure Protection
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul, Ranking Member Thompson, Chairman Ratcliffe, and Ranking Member Richmond:

The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Coalition is a diverse coalition comprised of trade associations whose members are required to comply with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) CFATS regulations. Coalition member organizations represent major sectors of the American economy including oil and gas refining, chemical production, chemical distribution and storage, explosives manufacturers, and agricultural goods and services. The businesses we represent are an integral part of the American economy, making our modern society possible. We look forward to working with you to develop a reauthorization bill, as our members have no higher priority than ensuring the safety and security of our products, our people, and our communities.

Since the CFATS program was enacted in 2007, DHS's authority to regulate security at our nation's chemical facilities was initially tied to appropriations bills. Lawmakers were unable to make statutory changes to improve the program until December 18, 2014, when the "Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act" (P.L. 113-254) was enacted. Throughout the reauthorization process, the members of the CFATS Coalition worked in a bipartisan manner to ensure that the CFATS program maintained the highest level of standards in security and efficiency. As a result, the statute addressed major impediments to completing site security plans and streamlined the vetting process for facility access. Most importantly, the four-year reauthorization provided industry with the certainty needed to make long-term facility security investments and enabled DHS to efficiently run the CFATS program.

The current authorization will expire in 16 months and now is the time to begin policy development on a reauthorization bill. The CFATS Coalition intends to work closely with Congress, DHS, and other stakeholders to ensure the continued viability of the CFATS program without interruption. We wish to maintain an open and cooperative relationship with all parties, which is the key to our success. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to move CFATS reauthorization forward.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Gas Association
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Petroleum Institute
International Liquid Terminals Association

Institute of Makers of Explosives
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
National Association of Chemical Distributors
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Chamber of Commerce