Dear Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member McCaskill, Chairman McCaul, and Ranking Member Thompson:

The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Coalition comprises a diverse group of trade associations and companies impacted by the CFATS regulations. Coalition members represent major sectors of the American economy, including chemical production, chemical distribution and storage, manufacturing, oil and gas refining, utilities, mining, and agricultural goods and services. The businesses we represent are vital to the American economy. Long-term reauthorization of CFATS will provide the certainty our industries need to make planning and investment decisions.

The CFATS Coalition requests that you make multi-year reauthorization of CFATS an immediate priority in your committees. The current CFATS authorization will expire in January 2019. With a full congressional calendar in 2018, it is critical for your committees to take up CFATS reauthorization legislation as soon as possible so it can proceed to the full U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives and on to the president for his signature into law before the program lapses in January.

The CFATS program has focused our industries on security, helping to make our nation more secure. Since its establishment in 2007, our industries have invested millions of dollars and instituted thousands of new security measures at our facilities. The “Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act” of 2014 (P.L. 113-254), which for the first time provided CFATS a multi-year authorization, further enhanced these efforts by providing regulatory certainty to both industry and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This stability allowed DHS to increase efficiencies in the program while streamlining the information submission process for regulated facilities.

A multi-year reauthorization of CFATS in the next few months would allow for the continuation of this positive momentum. We urge you to introduce CFATS reauthorization legislation as soon as possible so it can move through the process and be signed into law before there is a threat of a program lapse. Doing so will provide needed certainty and enhance the security of our nation.
Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Gas Association
American Petroleum Institute
Institute of Makers of Explosives
International Liquid Terminals Association
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Manufacturers
National Mining Association
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

cc: The Honorable John Ratcliffe, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection
    The Honorable Cedric Richmond, Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection