

February 27, 2018

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
& Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security  
& Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael McCaul  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bennie Thompson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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