



March 10, 2014

The Honorable John Shimkus
Chairman
Environment and the Economy Subcommittee
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2151 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Ranking Member
Environment and the Economy Subcommittee
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shimkus and Ranking Member Tonko,

On behalf of The Breast Cancer Fund I am writing in strong opposition to the Chemicals in Commerce Act (CICA) discussion draft that was released on February 27th. The Breast Cancer Fund is a national advocacy organization focused solely on preventing breast cancer. We work to eliminate our exposures to toxic chemicals and radiation linked to the disease. Reform of the outdated and ineffective Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) has long been a priority of our organization.

The absolute failure of TSCA to protect the public from toxic chemicals, including the well-known and deadly carcinogen asbestos, is well-documented. The American public has become more and more outraged as they have learned that under this antiquated law, the chemical industry has virtual free rein to put untested and unsafe chemicals into consumer products and our air, water and soil. Shockingly, the CICA takes a giant step *backwards* from even the meager protections in current law.

The CICA makes clear the agenda of the chemical industry and those legislators who represent their interests. The title itself shows that this bill is solely about furthering the economic interest of the industry. The American public is not calling for higher chemical industry profits; they are calling for the industry and the government to protect their families from unsafe chemicals and the numerous diseases linked to those chemicals, such as breast cancer. As chemical industry profits continue to grow, they are only outpaced by the financial and personal costs of the diseases and disabilities linked to their products. The goal of CICA is clearly not to protect public health; CICA would only make the situation worse.

Here are a few examples of the way CICA fails the American public:

- Does not update and strengthen the failed safety standard in TSCA;
- Does not protect vulnerable populations and does not take into account real world, or aggregate, exposures to chemicals;
- Restricts the use of the most up-to-date science in contradiction to recommendations by the National Academy of Sciences;

- Would allow for indefinite delays in completing safety determinations, a strategy used with great success by the chemical industry;
- Makes it even easier to get untested new chemicals on the market;
- Continues to deny the public access to information about hazardous chemicals;
- Makes it harder for EPA to regulate dangerous chemicals in consumer products;
- Removes the EPA's authority to regulate how toxic chemicals are disposed of; and
- Ties the hands of states in their efforts to protect their constituents. States provide the few protections from unsafe chemicals currently available.

As one of the witnesses that testified before your subcommittee last summer, and someone who has closely followed the other subcommittee hearings, I appreciated the opportunity to share the urgent need to strengthen TSCA to protect the public from unsafe chemicals. I am disappointed and dismayed that the only perspective that seems to have been heeded was that of industry and the overwhelming health concerns that were raised by several witnesses are not addressed in this discussion draft.

If Congress wants to represent their constituents and protect the health of the nation and future generations, it must go back to the drawing board to develop legislation that will solve the problems of TSCA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Rizzo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Rizzo, RN
President and CEO

Cc: Rep. Fred Upton, Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee
Rep. Henry Waxman, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee