

May 3, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairperson Murkowski, and Ranking Member Udall:

We write to you on behalf of our millions of members and supporters in support of level funding for the United States Chemical Safety Board (CSB) during fiscal year 2018 (FY18). This small agency, which operates with a staff of about 40 employees and an annual budget of just under \$12 million, is critical for ensuring the safety of American workers and communities.

The CSB was created under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 as an independent, non-regulatory agency modeled after the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The mission of the CSB is to investigate catastrophic chemical accidents to determine the cause or causes of an accident and make recommendations to prevent future incidents. In short, the CSB exists to protect workers and communities by working with facility owners and operators, unions and workers, other government agencies, and voluntary standard-setting organizations.

Investigations by the CSB often involve peer review to ensure that facts, conclusions, and recommendations are appropriate. After an investigation, the CSB produces reports and safety videos that are widely used and circulated in the industrial safety community to prevent chemical accidents.

Since its inception, the CSB has investigated 130 major chemical incidents in 40 states and made nearly 800 safety recommendations to a wide variety of stakeholders. In recent years, those investigations have included a refinery fire at Chevron in Richmond, CA; a fatal explosion and fire at Horsehead Holding Company in Monaca, PA; a chemical release at Freedom Industries in Charleston, WV; a fatal hot work explosion at Dupont in Buffalo, NY; and a fire at US Ink in Rutherford, NJ.

Our members and supporters were disturbed that President Trump's budget blueprint for FY18 proposed to eliminate funding for this small and vital agency.

We urge you to guarantee that the critical contribution this agency makes to the people of the United States continues by ensuring that the agency receives requested funding in the FY18 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO  
American Federation of Teachers  
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization  
BlueGreen Alliance  
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners  
Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Environmental Health  
Clean Air Council  
Coastal Coordination Program, The Ocean Foundation  
Coming Clean  
Communications Workers of America  
Community In-power & Development Association Inc.  
Earthjustice  
Ecology Center  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Environmental Justice Health Alliance  
Friends of the Earth U.S.  
Green America  
GreenLatinos  
Greenpeace  
Green Science Policy Institute  
Headwater LLC  
Healthy Building Network  
Interfaith Worker Justice  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal - North America (ICJB-NA)  
International Chemical Workers Union Council/UFCW  
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW  
League of Conservation Voters  
Moms Clean Air Force  
National Center for Environmental Health Strategies, Inc.  
National Employment Law Project  
National Resources Defense Council  
Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance  
Occupational Health and Safety Section, American Public Health Association  
Occupational Health Clinical Centers  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)  
Sierra Club  
Society for Occupational and Environmental Health  
The 5 Gyres Institute  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
UNITE HERE International Union  
United Steelworkers  
United Support and Memorial for Workplace Fatalities  
U.S. PIRG  
UWUA  
Women's Voices for the Earth

#### Alaska

Alaska Community Action on Toxics

#### California

Apostolic Faith Center  
Benicians for a Safe and Healthy Community  
Biomonitoring Resource Center at Commonweal  
California Communities Against Toxics  
California KidsIAQ  
California Safe Schools  
Coalition For A Safe Environment  
Communities for a Better Environment

Community Dreams  
Ellen Widess, former Chief of Cal OSHA, Strategic Consulting  
EMERGE  
Good Neighbor Steering Committee, Benicia  
San Pedro-Wilmington Branch 1069 NAACP  
St. Philomena Social Justice Ministry  
Worksafe

Florida  
Earth Action, Inc.

Georgia  
Glynn Environmental Coalition

Illinois  
Citizens Against Ruining the Environment

Maine  
Learning Disabilities Association of Maine  
Maine Labor Group on Health

Massachusetts  
MassCOSH  
Rafael Moure Eraso, UMass Lowell, Former CSB Chairperson

New Hampshire  
New Hampshire Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health

New Jersey  
American Federation of Teachers New Jersey  
Burlington County CLC  
CWA Local 1036  
CWA New Jersey  
GreenFaith  
Health Professionals and Allied Employees (HPAE)  
New Jersey Citizen Action  
New Jersey Education Association  
NJ State Industrial Union Council  
NJ Work Environment Council  
Sierra Club – NJ Chapter

New York  
Clean and Healthy New York  
Empire State Consumer Project  
NorthEast New York Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (NENYCOSH)

North Carolina  
Toxic Free NC

Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health (PhilaPOSH)  
Unitarian Universalist Climate Action Team

Rhode Island  
RI Committee for Occupational Safety and Health

Texas

Texas Campaign for the Environment  
Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services

Utah

Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment

Vermont

Vermont Conservation Voters  
Vermont Public Interest Research Group

Virginia

Gerald Poje, CSB founding board member

Washington

Northwest Green Chemistry  
SafeWork Washington

West Virginia

Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition  
People Concerned About Chemical Safety

Wyoming

Paulson and Associates