

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Pingree, Chair Merkley, Ranking Member Joyce and Ranking Member Murkowski,

We urge you to fully fund the President's FY2023 budget request for implementation of the Toxic Substances Control Act. Fully funding this request would provide the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the resources to successfully administer its greater responsibilities under TSCA as amended in 2016 by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (2016 Lautenberg Act). This important bipartisan law is key to protecting people from chemical hazards in their workplaces, homes, and communities. However, EPA's implementation of the 2016 Lautenberg Act has been impeded by a lack of sufficient funds and staff.

The President's FY2023 budget of \$124.2 million and an additional 201 FTE for the TSCA program would provide EPA with needed scientific expertise and the resources to meet its statutory mandates to review and manage the risks of chemicals using the best available science. The 2016 Lautenberg Act created substantial additional workload and the need for deeper expertise, particularly for data development, chemicals risk evaluation and management, and the review of confidential business information. These critical resources will increase the Agency's capacity to address these exigencies and will also improve the agency's ability to conduct credible and timely assessments in its pre-market review of new chemicals.

Recent reports by the [Government Accountability Office in 2021](#) and [EPA's Office of Inspector General in 2020](#) found that EPA's ability to assess and manage chemicals regressed due in part to lack of workforce to carry out its duties. Both reports recognized the greatly increased scope of work under the amended TSCA.

We ask you to support the important role EPA plays in protecting human health and the environment from toxic chemicals by fully funding EPA's budget request to build the capacity and expertise needed to implement the expanded authority and responsibilities given to it by Congress. A fully funded TSCA will support EPA's mandate to assess and address the risks from toxic chemicals faced by families and populations at higher risk of exposure and those at increased risk from their effects, including low-income communities, communities of color, pregnant women and children, Indigenous populations, and workers.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Public Health Association
Children's Environmental Health Network
Defend Our Health
Earthjustice
Endocrine Society
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Working Group
If It Was Your Child
International Association of Fire Fighters
League of Conservation Voters
Moms Clean Air Force
Natural Resources Defense Council
Safer Chemicals Healthy Families
The BlueGreen Alliance
United Steelworkers
Utility Workers Union Of America

Cc:

The Honorable Tom Carper, Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce