

November 2, 2009

Dear Representative:

This week the House is scheduled to take up the Chemical and Water Security Act of 2009 (H.R. 2868). The CWA-UAW Legislative Alliance, representing more than two million active and retired workers, urges you to vote for passage of this legislation and to oppose any weakening amendments.

The existing Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standard (CFATS), authorized through the end of FY 2010, is inadequate to protect workers and their communities. H.R. 2868 would improve upon the existing CFATS by:

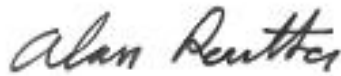
- requiring all covered facilities to make plans for the use of technologies that reduce the potential consequences of an attack;
- authorizing the government to require implementation of such plans, where technically and economically feasible, at those facilities that present the greatest release risk;
- mandating employee training and participation in plant security, including in compliance inspections;
- allowing states to set more protective standards;
- allowing workers and communities to enforce protections through citizen suits against government agencies and by petitioning agencies for enforcement against individual facilities; and
- requiring the government to report on enforcement and compliance so the public can know the law is being implemented, while avoiding publication of the vulnerabilities of individual facilities.

In our judgment, the legislation adequately protects jobs by requiring DHS to show that implementation of security plans "would not significantly and demonstrably impair the ability of the owner or operator of the covered chemical facility to continue the business of the facility at its location." The CWA-UAW Legislative Alliance opposes amendments that purport to protect jobs, but in fact

only hinder the implementation of methods to reduce the consequences of a terrorist attack. In addition, we oppose any attempt to exempt small businesses, since this could exempt some of the highest risk facilities, including one that puts 12 million people at risk.

In conclusion, the CWA-UAW Legislative Alliance urges you to vote for passage of the Chemical and Water Security Act of 2009 (H.R. 2868) and to oppose any weakening amendments. Thank you for considering our views on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Reuther".

Alan Reuther
Director
CWA-UAW Alliance

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