Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
2007 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2018 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Appropriations bill, we encourage the subcommittee to reject the Obama Administration's rule
promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the *Accidental Release
Prevention Requirements: Risk Management Programs Under the Clean Air Act* ("RMP Rule").

Issued on January 13, 2017, this new mandate is the very definition of a midnight regulation.
While the RMP program is intended to reduce the risk of accidental releases impacting
surrounding facilities, this rule fails to enhance safety and may compromise national security.

This rule increases the operating costs of businesses with no corresponding increase in safety.
Ignoring industry comments and safety experts to develop a rule that trades safety for paperwork
is no way to do business. In fact, this rule actually increases security concerns by making it
easier for terrorists or other bad actors to gain access to sensitive information that could be
exploited. Even officials in the Obama Administration's Department of Homeland Security
raised these concerns, citing the dangerous precedent this public oversharing would set.

The current RMP framework works in a sector that has already prioritized safety above all else
and that the Bureau of Labor Statistics proves is among the safest in the nation. Industry
stakeholders have worked cooperatively with the EPA to achieve a staggering 60% reduction in
accidental releases in the 20 years the RMP program has been in place.

More than 40 different organizations have requested Congress block this misguided rule
including: the Agricultural Retailers Association; the American Chemistry Council; the
American Coatings Association; the American Forest & Paper Association; the American Fuel &
Petrochemical Manufacturers; the American Indian Infrastructure Association; Americans for
Limited Government; the American Petroleum Institute; the Arizona Mining Association; the
Corn Refiners Association; the Environmental Technology Council; the Fertilizer Institute;
the International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses; the International Institute of Ammonia
Refrigeration; the International Liquid Terminals Association; the Institute of Makers of
Explosives; the International Warehouse Logistics Association; the Louisiana Chemical
Association; the National Association of Chemical Distributors; the National Association of

Manufacturers; the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; the US Oil & Gas Association; countless others throughout the country.

H.J. Res. 59, which aims to block this rule utilizing the Congressional Review Act, has more than 60 cosponsors. Section 480 of the engrossed version of the FY 2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill contained language which aimed to block this rule. Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following again this fiscal year:

> *SEC. ___. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the final rule entitled "Accidental Release Prevention Requirements: Risk Management Programs Under the Clean Air Act" published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on January 13, 2017 (82 Fed. Reg. 4594 et seq.).*

We thank you for your consideration of this request and for your leadership on the committee.
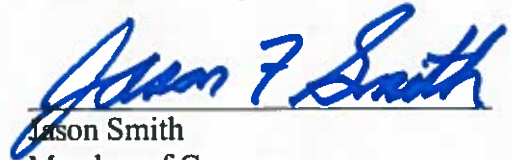
Sincerely,

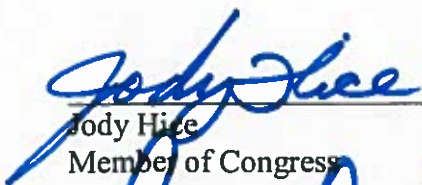Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Steve Pearce
Member of Congress

Jason Smith
Member of Congress

Jody Hice
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

Brian Babin
Member of Congress

Liz Cheney
Member of Congress