



March 7, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

On behalf of the Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates (SOCMA), **I am writing to express our strong support for expanding funding and staffing for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP)**. In light of the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management's recommendations to restructure and reduce the federal workforce, we urge a particular focus on bolstering the New Chemicals Review Program. Ensuring this program functions seamlessly and streamlines reviews is critical to advancing President Trump's goals of reshoring manufacturing, fostering innovation, strengthening America's industrial base, and reducing reliance on foreign competitors.

Since 1921, SOCMA has represented specialty chemical producers who drive advancements across every sector. Specialty chemicals are critical in applications for national defense, oil and gas, electronics, agriculture, consumer products, pharmaceuticals and countless other industries. However, our members consistently face delays and uncertainty in the new chemicals program, which impedes progress and discourages investment in cutting-edge technologies. Predictable, science-based, and timely chemical reviews are essential to ensuring that groundbreaking innovations can reach the market efficiently and responsibly, reinforcing America's competitive advantage and economic security.

Delays in Chemical Approvals Are Hindering U.S. Innovation

The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) mandates that, within 90 days (or 30-days in the case of a Low Volume Exemption), EPA conduct scientific reviews of new chemicals before they can enter commerce. Despite these statutory requirements, prolonged delays and backlogs in the review process – often stretching up to two years – have hindered commercialization and discouraged investment in cutting-edge technologies. To maintain America's position as the world leader in innovation and to enable self-sufficiency, it is imperative that OCSPP be adequately staffed and resourced to ensure predictable, science-based, and timely chemical reviews.



Access to the latest chemical innovations is not just an economic priority but a national security imperative. Fixing inefficiencies in the New Chemicals Review Program will reduce reliance on foreign supply chains, reshore critical production, and create high-quality domestic jobs in key industries.

Prioritizing OCSPP Staffing and Resources to Support U.S. Manufacturing

As you consider reorganization options and budget allocations, we urge you to prioritize staffing and funding for OCSPP, specifically Human Health Risk Assessors (toxicologists) and Industrial Hygienists for the New Chemicals Review Program. The smooth functioning of this office is vital to fulfilling President Trump’s vision of a stronger America that unleashes domestic manufacturing and enhances supply chain resiliency.

SOCMA Stands Ready to Support EPA’s Efforts

We applaud your commitment to a well-functioning regulatory system that supports both innovation and national competitiveness. SOCMA members stand ready to share firsthand challenges with the new chemicals program and offer pragmatic solutions. Through collaboration, we can identify concrete steps to enhance the efficiency of the review process while maintaining the highest safety and environmental standards. We look forward to working together on reforms that enhance the program’s efficiency, predictability, and alignment with America’s long-term success.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Abril
President & CEO

cc: S. Donahue
A. Gustafson
L. Dekleva