Rebuilding America Depends on American Chemistry

In addition to helping power the U.S. economy, chemistry is vital to building and construction.

The business of chemistry is a $633 billion industry that supports over 550,000 skilled, good paying jobs and over 25% of the U.S. gross domestic product.

A large portion of the chemistry produced in America is used for building and construction, especially single-family homes. Chemistry is a powerful tool that builders know they can count on to help lower heating/cooling costs, increase durability and improve affordability for homeowners.

Did you know...

Nearly **30.1 billion pounds of chemistry** products were used in the building products for over 900,000 single-family homes in the United States in 2023, averaging **33,100 pounds per home**.

An average single-family home contains approximately **6,200 pounds of plastics** and **5,400 pounds of elastomers**, which provide weather barriers and insulation for energy savings.

CHEMISTRY CREATES AMERICA COMPETES™

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Congress also has an important job to do that involves adopting policies that allow chemistry to contribute innovative solutions to help improve the buildings and homes of today and tomorrow.

- **Fix the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA):** EPA's review of new, innovative chemicals coming to market can take years under TSCA, compared to other countries' regulatory regimes that can take weeks. The agency's reviews of chemicals already on the market fail to use the best available science, are not based on real-world scenarios and are not risk-based. These reviews include critical chemistries that can help make buildings and homes more affordable and durable. Now is the time for lawmakers to make the precise fixes to get TSCA working so American manufacturers can thrive.
- **Preserve Manufacturers' Use and Reliance on Innovative Chemistries:** Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), a large and diverse family of chemistries, play a crucial role in helping to improve the durability, UV resistance and corrosion resistance of buildings and homes. The many innovations and improvements that fluoropolymers bring to today's construction materials could be jeopardized with inappropriate, one size- fits-all regulation of PFAS.
- **Support Pro-growth Tax Incentives that Lower Consumer Costs:** Three federal tax credits can support economic/job growth and help reduce homeowners' costs. Under the 25C Tax Credit, homeowners can receive credits for home improvement upgrades, including advanced insulation solutions like foam plastics. The 45L Tax Credit provides incentives for homebuilders to construct high-efficiency homes using proven technologies that help reduce long-term energy costs. And the 179D Tax Deduction is available for commercial building owners who invest in energy efficiency improvements that may support economic growth and job creation.
- **Prioritize Cost-Effective Water Infrastructure through Open Competition:** Plastic pipes offer many benefits compared to alternatives: longer service life, less breakage, lower operational and maintenance costs, and increased water efficiency. Federal funding allocated for water infrastructure projects—covering municipal potable water systems, wastewater treatment, agricultural irrigation, and conveyance systems—should prioritize cost-effective, market-driven solutions. Incorporating open, competitive bidding processes when utilizing federal funds helps protect taxpayer interests, encourages innovation, and promotes sustainable infrastructure improvements.

Building a stronger, more affordable America relies on American chemistry.

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American® Chemistry Council

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