



Statement

For Immediate Release

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EPA'S FLAWED DIOXIN REVIEW PROVIDES NO DEFINED PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFIT; CONFLICTS WITH CONGRESSIONAL REFORMS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 17, 2012) – The American Chemistry Council (ACC) issued the following statement in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) release of its non-cancer science assessment for dioxins:

“EPA's announcement of its dioxin reassessment confirms that people face little to no health risk based on exposure to dioxin over their lifetime. The EPA also confirmed the amount of dioxin in environment has plummeted and that the largest sources are from uncontrolled burning in backyard barrels.

“Unfortunately, EPA has chosen to ignore recommendations by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to provide a complete scientific review of dioxin and instead has released only a portion of its assessment. Furthermore, it is not clear why the Agency set a dioxin level that is three times more stringent than other countries and the World Health Organization if the EPA contends that current levels of dioxin do not pose a health concern.

“We are disappointed with the EPA's decision to publish a scientifically flawed dioxin reassessment that provides no defined public health benefit. This decision conflicts with the direction Congress provided when it passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act (HR 2055), which included critical provisions to advance the scientific integrity of EPA's chemical risk assessment program.

“Specifically, the legislation states that any current and future Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessments should provide regulators with realistic values that will result in enhanced protection of human health.

“We support this legislation and hope it leads to the reforms necessary to correct the dioxin reassessment and the EPA's overall chemical risk assessment program.”

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The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of



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chemistry is a \$720 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.

