

June 27, 2022

Joseph Goffman
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator Performing Delegated Duties of Assistant
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPA Docket Center
Office of Air and Radiation Docket, Mail Code 28221T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0420

Dear Mr. Goffman:

The undersigned organizations are pleased to provide comments on a specific question raised in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to revise the regulatory definition of volatile organic compounds (VOC) under the Clean Air Act (CAA) to exclude certain hydrofluorocarbon compounds:

“...EPA is seeking public comment on whether and how EPA should consider information on and properties of PFAS compounds beyond those properties related to the VOC exemption program and how it might impact the VOC delisting decision.”¹

We believe that this rulemaking does not provide a proper vehicle for broadly examining questions about the diverse properties of PFAS chemistries, particularly regarding properties that are not related to the VOC exemption program. For example, this rulemaking would not be an appropriate mechanism for gathering general mobility, toxicity, and treatability data on PFAS chemistries that do not relate to the proposed delisting of the specified hydrofluorocarbon compounds.

EPA currently has multiple PFAS initiatives underway, which provide a more suitable platform for the assessment of PFAS chemistries. Therefore, we strongly urge that EPA use these existing mechanisms, which are far more relevant to general questions relating to PFAS chemistries, their properties, and definitions, rather than dilute the regulatory focus of and divert resources from this VOC delisting proposal. We recommend, as has been the EPA's policy since 1971, that “organic compounds with a negligible level of reactivity continue to be excluded from the regulatory definition of VOCs” and request that EPA engage stakeholders in a separate dialogue on the properties and definitions related to PFAS in an appropriate context.

Sincerely,

American Apparel & Footwear Association

¹ 87 Fed. Reg. 25170, 25176 (April 28, 2022).

American Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association
American Fuel & Petrochemical Association
PRINTING United Alliance
Solid Waste Association of North America
U.S. Chamber of Commerce