

March 1, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jefferies
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

We urge you to ensure reauthorization in the very near term of the critical Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program that expired July 28, 2023.

The CFATS program's primary mission is to help reduce the risk of a terrorist attack on the highest-risk chemical facilities by addressing a wide range of potential terrorist threats. For the past 16 years, the DHS's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has worked with large and small companies to develop a program recognized as the global standard for chemical security.

Chemicals are used in a vast array of U.S. industries and are critical to a strong supply chain. The vital role of the chemical industry, however, comes with unique security challenges that require government agencies and companies to work together to stay ahead of the ever-evolving threats facing our nation. Unfortunately, those threats are real and show no signs of diminishing. CFATS is the only program that assisted chemical facilities in identifying potential risks and developing plans to counter cyber and physical threats. The lapse of the CFATS program means DHS is not able to review security plans from companies and cannot conduct on-site visits to test a facility's resilience to terrorist threats.

H. R. 4470, the *Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2023*, passed the House by a vote of 409 – 1 in July. The bill provides a clean two-year reauthorization of the program. No action was taken in the Senate prior to the program's expiration.

The CFATS program was designed to provide tools and safeguards to decrease the risk of terrorist attacks involving chemical facilities. We strongly urge you to prioritize CFATS reauthorization in the near term. Any supplemental or continuing appropriations legislation could provide an expeditious opportunity to ensure this critical program is brought back online.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Retailers Association
Alliance for Chemical Distribution
American Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Petroleum Institute
Association of American Railroads

International Warehouse Logistics Association
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
National Association of Manufacturers
National Industrial Transportation League
National Tank Truck Carriers
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates
The Fertilizer Institute