



New Jersey

**Work Environment Council**

Safe, secure jobs and a healthy, sustainable environment

7 Dunmore Avenue, First Floor East

Ewing, NJ 08618

Phone: (609) 882-6100

Email: [info@njwec.org](mailto:info@njwec.org)

[www.njwec.org](http://www.njwec.org)

## Media Release

# **Congress passes Toxic Substance Control Act reform**

Contact: Janice Selinger  
Communications Director  
609-882-6100 x305  
[jselinger@njwec.org](mailto:jselinger@njwec.org)

### **For Immediate Release, June 8, 2016:**

Last night the Senate passed the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. It passed the House in May and is now being sent to President Obama, who is expected to sign it into law. This legislation reforms the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) new tools to require chemical testing and restrict dangerous chemicals.

TSCA first passed in 1976 and was a way to regulate chemicals. However, it was long criticized for being weak and not giving the EPA the tools needed to assure chemical safety.

The TSCA reform bill gives the EPA the authority to require testing of new and existing chemicals and the ability to ban or restrict chemicals that don't meet the new safety standards. Companies also must substantiate any claims to business confidentiality information that would hide the identity of active chemicals.

The New Jersey Work Environment Council applauds the TSCA reform, but remains concerned that it does not go far enough. For example, it pre-empts states from setting stronger protections while a chemical is being evaluated by EPA and only by applying for a waiver can a state set a stronger standard once EPA has made a final ruling.

"It is a step in the right direction that TSCA has been amended," said Dan Fatton, executive director of the New Jersey Work Environment Council, "But there are still far

too many chemicals in use with ingredients that can harm us. Unfortunately, New Jersey's industrial legacy illustrates far too well the need for strong regulatory oversight and WEC hopes the waiver process will enable additional state action. As Frank Lautenberg argued for many years, the public has a right to know about the risks of dangerous chemicals."

### **About NJWEC**

The NJ Work Environment Council is an alliance of 70 labor, community, and environmental organizations advocating for safe, secure jobs and a healthy, sustainable environment. For more information, please visit [www.njwec.org](http://www.njwec.org).