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Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce TSCA and Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic Chemicals: Examining Domestic and International Actions Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection March 4, 2010

Today's hearing examines substances used in commerce known as persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals. I commend Chairman Rush for holding this important hearing, and I want to welcome Representative Whitfield to his first hearing of this Congress as Ranking Member.

This is the Subcommittee's third hearing reviewing the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the nation's primary law for ensuring the safety of industrial chemicals. At the first hearing, the Committee learned of the widespread agreement among industry, labor, and nongovernmental organizations that TSCA needs to be reformed. At the second hearing, we heard testimony on how to prioritize the vast number of chemicals in commerce for which we do not have health and safety information. Today's hearing discusses how to proceed with a set of chemicals that most agree are at the top of the list of concern.

These hearings are helping us determine how best to modernize TSCA and fix its many flaws. In addition to these hearings, we have been working closely with our colleagues in the Senate and will be reaching out to the many stakeholders in the TSCA process. Just like Chairman Rush, I am hopeful that TSCA reform can proceed on a bipartisan basis and with continued input from stakeholders. We all want legislation that improves protections for public health and the environment, as well as continued innovation and job production.

I thank all of the witnesses for being here today and look forward to hearing their testimony.

Thank you.