

	NEWS FROM		
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**Statement by the Honorable Bobby L. Rush, Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on
Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection
at the**

Hearing: H.R. 5820, the “Toxic Chemicals Safety Act of 2010”

Thursday, July 29, 2010

WASHINGTON — “Good morning. Today, we are pleased to welcome all of our seven witnesses, who represent a wide range of views on the state of chemicals regulation in the United States.

“I know that each of you are very concerned about the proper role of the Environmental Protection Agency in assessing chemical risks, hazards, exposure, and safety, as they relate to protecting human health, public safety and the environment. I look forward to listening to the testimony of the witnesses and their reactions to H.R. 5820, the Toxic Chemicals Safety Act of 2010, which I proudly co-authored and introduced in the House of Representatives with Chairman Waxman, one week ago, last Thursday.

“Because we anticipated that we would introduce a major chemicals reform bill before the August recess, Chairman Waxman and I invited critical stakeholders, beginning in early May 2010, to comment on and participate, *in person*, at a number of stakeholder sessions on a discussion draft, which served as a precursor to the bill that is the subject of today’s hearing.

“My *own* goal in all of this was to put forward a bill that all sides would not necessarily fall in love with, but *could actually live with* just like the hundreds of millions of Americans *must live*

– more –

with chemical substances, mixtures, and articles that they put on their bodies, find *in* the containers where they store their food and water, and that they *put onto* the breakfast, lunch, and dinner tables of their families and loved ones *before* putting them into their precious bodies.

“One thing that is absolutely clear to me is that Americans *want, need, and demand to know*—much more than they ever have in the past—what chemicals are in *their* consumer products, *their* food and drink, *their* homes, *their* surrounding communities and throughout *their* environment.

“Americans are also *demanding to know* what the associated use, hazard, and exposure risks and harms are from these chemicals to their own health, to the health of their families, and to the environment.

“It is with this imperative to act—and to act *now*— that we find ourselves here today.

“Again, I want to thank all of today’s witnesses for your participation and we look forward to your testimony.

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