

April 30, 2020

Ms. Alexandra Dapolito Dunn
Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Assistant Administrator Dunn,

American chemical manufacturers are providing vital products in the fight against COVID-19. Products like biocides, bleach, antibacterial soap, hand sanitizers, antimicrobial disinfectants, detergents, medical equipment, personal protective equipment, sterile packaging for medical goods, pharmaceuticals, and other items are on the front lines of this pandemic. Many of these companies are also donating essential supplies such as PPE and sanitizers.

At the same time, this necessary pausing of the economy has created unprecedented and unforeseen challenges to these same businesses. Quarantines, interruptions to supply chains, and diminished demand for goods are straining resources. Manufacturers are faced with enormous liquidity issues and are striving to manage cash-flow. For these reasons, we respectfully request you defer TSCA risk evaluation user fee payments for 12 months beyond final publication of the scoping documents for risk evaluations. This will allow these essential businesses to conserve critical operating capital while we work together to overcome this deadly virus and bring stability back to the economy. As you know, section 26(b) of TSCA states that the Administrator “may” impose fees for risk assessments, but also states that EPA may “take into account the ability to pay of the person required to pay such fee.” The uncertain economic conditions that may exist in the fall when the user fees are currently scheduled to be due may make user fee payments challenging.

American chemical manufacturers continue to support the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act for the 21st Century Act, including the payment of the risk evaluation fees and we are not seeking forgiveness of the fees, only their forbearance.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

American Coatings Association
Adhesive and Sealant Council
Chlorine Institute
Color Pigments Manufacturers Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors
SOCMA
Vinyl Institute