



February 27, 2013

MEMO IN SUPPORT

CT HB 6453

An Act Concerning Foamed-in Place Insulating Material

The American Chemistry Council (ACC), is a national trade association representing chemicals and plastics manufacturers in the United States, including member companies in the state of Connecticut. Our members are committed to the safety of their products and to the protection of the public health. The legislation, CT HB 6453 prohibits foamed-in-place material except urethane foam or styrene foam insulation from being sold or installed in the state unless the manufacturer or supplier has certified to the State Building Inspector that the material complies with requirements defined in the legislation.

ACC supports the legislation because there is an exemption in the bill for "urethane and styrene foam insulations". Last year, similar legislation that was amended to include urethane and styrene foam insulations that was vetoed by the Governor (HB 5248 of 2012). We want to ensure that as the legislation moves through the legislative process, it is not amended to include urethane or styrene foam insulation. Spray polyurethane foam (SPF) differs from urea-formaldehyde (UFFI) foamed-in-place insulation material in several ways. SPF can be spray applied to walls, roofs, attics and crawl spaces and can be applied to new construction. UFFI is pumped into wall cavities through holes drilled in exterior or interior walls, where it then cures and hardens into place. Also, SPF is a widely used and popular insulation material and is not the subject of regulatory bans in the U.S. or Canada.

Health and safety for homeowners and SPF installers is a top priority for the SPF industry. The American Chemistry Council's Center for the Polyurethanes Industry works to lead the industry towards continuous improvement and encourages professionalism in the SPF profession. CPI provides a number of guidance documents on safety considerations when using spray foam as well as the popular free Spray Foam Chemical Health and Safety Training online program, which focuses on the professional application of SPF. More than 7,000 people have participated in the health and safety training program since its launch in 2010. The manufacturers of SPF have also supported the SPF Alliance's development of a voluntary contractor certification program that was recently launched.

Chemistry industry jobs are high-paying. The average wage of a chemistry industry employee in Connecticut is \$117,669, which is 67% higher than the average manufacturing wage. These jobs generate \$1,543 million in earnings and \$1,036 million in federal, state and local taxes on personal income and \$762 million in Social Security and Medicare contributions. By retaining the exemption for urethane and styrene foam insulations this legislation will help ensure a healthy spray polyurethane foam industry in the state and will not negatively impact jobs and workers in Connecticut. For the reasons states above, we strongly urge support of this legislation.