

Re: CRA Resolution to Disapprove EPA Rule for TCE under TSCA

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The undersigned 170 community, environmental, labor, and public health organizations from across the U.S write to urge Congress to reject [S.J.Res.19](#) and [H.J.Res.34](#), Congressional Review Act (CRA) joint resolutions to disapprove the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule for trichloroethylene (TCE) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Congressional disapproval of this rule would eliminate vital health protections for many Americans who are at serious risk of cancer, Parkinson's disease, birth defects, and immune system damage from exposure to TCE.

TCE is a highly toxic solvent used in metal degreasing, spot removers, paints and coatings, shoe polish, adhesives and sealants, hobby kits and cleaning products for automobile brakes and other parts. Tens of thousands of workers and countless consumers are exposed to TCE each year, despite the known existence and use of safer alternatives.

For decades, releases of TCE have contaminated drinking water supplies across the United States: 17 million Americans are known to be [exposed](#) to TCE from nearly 400 drinking water systems in 41 states. TCE is also found at more than 50 percent of federal Superfund sites.

During the first Trump administration, EPA's risk evaluation of TCE found severe health risks at very low levels of exposure, determining that virtually all known TCE uses pose unreasonable risks to the health of workers and consumers. Long-term exposure is linked to multiple types of cancer as well as Parkinson's disease, liver and kidney damage, and autoimmunity, in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks its own healthy tissues and organs. Following brief exposures, TCE can cause fetal cardiac defects. TCE also breaks down into vinyl chloride, which can be even more carcinogenic to the liver.

TCE contamination is widespread at military bases, where families of service members have suffered serious health effects linked to TCE exposure. Because of the extensive harm (including death) experienced by members of the military and their families at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, Congress included the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2021 in the bipartisan Honoring our PACT Act. This law authorizes expedited resolution of claims against the U.S. for harms related to TCE-contaminated drinking water at the base. The federal government is expected to pay these families more than \$20 billion (per the Congressional Budget Office.)

Workers and communities across the country have experienced severe harm from TCE exposure. In [Woburn](#), Massachusetts, more than twenty children were diagnosed with leukemia after barrels containing TCE leaked into the local drinking water supply. At Camp Lejeune, an estimated 500,000 to 1,000,000 Marines, military families, and nearby residents were exposed to TCE, resulting in increased risks of cancer, Parkinson's disease, and kidney disease. More than 50 cases of childhood cancer were detected in [Johnson County](#), Indiana, where TCE contaminated the groundwater and migrated into residential homes. Residents of [Tucson](#), Arizona; [Rochester](#) and

[Long Island](#), New York; [Piketon](#), Ohio; [Newark](#), New Jersey; [Brevard](#), Florida; [Wichita](#), Kansas; and contaminated communities across the country have suffered similar harms.

No family should experience the pain that these communities have endured.

The final rule significantly eases compliance requirements on regulated entities. Under TSCA, which was updated less than nine years ago with overwhelming bipartisan support, EPA is legally required to issue a rule eliminating TCE's unreasonable risks. Given TCE's serious health threats, EPA determined the protections required by the law could only be achieved by phasing out the use of the chemical. However, the Agency's rule grants several industries lengthy periods (twenty to fifty years for some) to phase out TCE use, including for "critical uses" of TCE for which EPA had not identified readily available alternatives.

To protect workers during the extended phaseout periods, preventing the debilitating health effects described above, the rule requires companies to use commonsense controls that limit occupational exposures to TCE. Responding to industry concerns about the feasibility of the controls in the proposed rule, the final rule significantly eased those requirements, making the exposure limits 180 times less protective than the proposed rule.

If the resolution is advanced, it will raise costs for workers and families across the country and limit future TCE protections for your constituents. A successful CRA resolution throwing out this rule would consign communities and workers across the country to ongoing dangerous exposures to TCE – prioritizing the interests of just a handful of companies that already have multi-year or multi-decade phase out periods. The TCE rule is a sensible protection and rolling back this rule will burden families with healthcare costs and leave a lasting economic impact on exposed communities.

By the agency's own estimate, the TCE rule will protect more than 85,000 workers and consumers across the country and save more than \$20 million in health benefits from reduced cancer incidence alone. EPA did not quantify the benefits from reduced incidence of Parkinson's disease, fetal heart malformations, and immune system toxicity, which are expected to be even greater.

TSCA grants EPA the ability to provide short-term relief from the rule to affected companies; it would be irresponsible for Congress to take the sweeping step of disapproving the entire TCE rule – an action that (now and in the future) would deprive tens of thousands of workers and consumers of critical health protections and leave communities at risk from long-term air and drinking water contamination.

We urge you to reject [S.J.Res.19](#) and [H.J.Res.34](#). Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

National Organizations

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
Center for Environmental Health
Earthjustice Action

Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of
America (UAW)
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Toxic-Free Future

350.org
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
Bend the Curve
Beyond Pesticides
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
Breast Cancer Over Time
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Environmental Justice and Children's Health
Change the Chamber
Children's Environmental Health Network
CHIPS Communities United
Clean Water Action
Climate Action Works
Climate Justice Alliance
Collaborative for Health and Environment (CHE)
Community Action Works
EARTHDAY.ORG
Earthworks
EcoMadres
Elders Climate Action
Endangered Species Coalition
Environment America
Environmental Protection Network
Environmental Working Group
EnviroReporter.com LLC
Erin Brockovich / Integrated Resource Management, Inc.
Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety
Friends of the Earth
GAIA (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives)
Green America
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
Green Science Policy Institute
Habitat Recovery Project
IDARE LLC
IDN Consulting

Immaculate Heart Community Environmental Commission
Just Zero
Latino Outdoors
League of Conservation Voters (LCV)
Linda Birnbaum -- former director, National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
and National Toxicology Program (NTP)
Military Poisons
Moms Clean Air Force
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National League for Nursing
Next 100 Coalition
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
Partnership for Policy Integrity
Plastic Pollution Coalition
Progressives for Climate
Public Citizen
Rachel Carson Council
Resource Renewal Institute
Safer States
Science and Community Action Network (SciCAN.org)
Sierra Club
Society of Native Nations
Sussman & Associates
The Last Plastic Straw
The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
The Story of Stuff Project
Toxic Sites and Human Rights Project
UC Irvine School of Law Center for Land, Environment & Natural Resources
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
U.S. Climate Action Network
U.S. PIRG

State and Local Organizations

350 Bay Area Action
350Hawaii
350 Seattle
African American Society #024 -- Connecticut
AFT New Jersey
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Behr, Valleycrest, and Valley Pike Community Advisory Group -- Ohio
Benicians For a Safe and Healthy Community -- Benicia, CA
Breathe Free Detroit

Breathe Project -- Pennsylvania
California Communities Against Toxics
California Nurses for Environmental Health & Justice (CNEHJ)
California Public Interest Research Group
Cape Fear River Watch -- Wilmington, NC
Center for Coalfield Justice -- Washington and Greene Counties, PA
Center for Public Environmental Oversight -- Mountain View, CA
Cherokee Concerned Citizens -- Pascagoula, MS
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB) -- Wisconsin
Clean Air Action -- Pennsylvania
Clean Cape Fear -- Wilmington, NC
Clean+Healthy -- New York
Clean Power Lake County -- Waukegan, IL
Climate Conversation Brazoria County -- Freeport and Angleton, TX
Coastal Carolina Riverwatch -- North Carolina
CODEPINK Bay Area
ColorBrightonGreen -- Brighton, NY
Comité Diálogo Ambiental -- Puerto Rico
Comite Pro Uno -- Maywood, CA
Community Builders Corporation -- Santa Rosa, CA
Conservation Law Foundation -- New England
CWA Local 1036 -- West Trenton, NJ
Defend Our Health -- Maine
Delaware Nurses Association
Don't Waste Arizona
Ecology Center -- Michigan
Environment New York
Environmental Justice Task Force -- Tucson, AZ
Fisherville Environmental Action Now -- Lake Charles, LA
FreshWater Accountability Project -- Ohio
Friends and Residents of Greater Gowanus -- Brooklyn, NY
Good Neighbor Steering Committee of Benicia -- Benicia, CA
Health Professionals and Allied Employees -- Emerson, NJ
Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition, Inc. -- Huntington, NY
Inclusive Louisiana
Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness/Advocacy Network (IUUWAN)
Ironbound Community Corporation -- Newark, NJ
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Los Jardines Institute -- New Mexico
Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water -- Merrimack, NH
Micah Six Eight Mission -- Sulphur, LA
Miller-Travis & Associates -- Maryland
Milwaukee Riverkeeper

Moms for a Nontoxic New York (MNNY)
Mossville Environmental Action Now (MEAN) -- Lake Charles, LA
Nantucket PFAS Action Group
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club -- Nassau County, NY
NC Conservation Network
New Mexico Environmental Law Center
NJ Work Environment Council
Occidental Arts and Ecology Center -- California
Ohio Valley Allies -- Ohio
Onondaga Audubon -- Syracuse, NY
PfoaProject NY -- Hoosick Falls, NY
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles (PSR-LA)
Physicians for Social Responsibility of PA
Pollution Prevention Resource Center -- Everett, WA
Public Health Advocacy Institute -- Massachusetts
Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh (RP3)
RiSE for Environmental Justice -- Kansas City, MO
RWhite Environmental Consultants -- Virginia
Rural Roots Louisiana
San Francisco Baykeeper -- Oakland, CA
Save the Pine Bush -- Albany, NY
Slingshot -- New England
South Shore Audubon Society -- Freeport, NY
Sovereign Inupiat for a Living Arctic (SILA) -- Alaska
Statewide Organization for Community eMpowerment -- Tennessee
Stop Sterigenics -- Willowbrook, IL
Stop Sterigenics Georgia
Sussman & Associates
Texas Campaign for the Environment
The Descendants Project -- Wallace, LA
The Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah
Toxic Free North Carolina
Tri-Valley Groundwater -- Pleasanton, CA
Turtle Island Restoration Network -- Texas
Vermont Natural Resources Council
Vermont Public Interest Research Group
Vessel Project of Louisiana -- Sulphur, LA
Voice of Gowanus -- Brooklyn, NY
WE ACT for Environmental Justice -- New York City
West End Revitalization Association (WERA) -- Mebane, NC
Women for a Healthy Environment -- Pennsylvania
Worksafe -- California
Zero Waste Washington

cc: Senate & House offices