



MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

S.501-B (Kaminsky) / A.6296-A (Englebright)

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to regulation of toxic chemicals in children's products

The Capital Region Chamber, representing 2,400 businesses and organizations from throughout the Capital Region that employ more than 150,000 area residents, strongly opposes S.501-B/A.6296-A. This bill would establish a burdensome, unworkable chemical regulatory program that would only add to the increasingly complex patchwork of state chemical laws that are hampering economic growth in New York.

Manufacturing accounts for a significant portion of our state's economic output, employing tens of thousands of workers in our communities and provides hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue for the state and local governments. Specifically, the chemical manufacturing industry is New York's largest manufacturing sector, and represents 9% of total manufacturing employment in New York and 24% of our state's overall manufacturing shipments. Over 40,000 New Yorkers are directly employed by the chemistry industry with another 88,000 related jobs related to the Chemistry industry. Over 96% of all manufactured goods are directly touched by the business of chemistry, making New York's chemical makers an essential part of every facet of our economy. Thanks to chemistry, our lives are healthier, safer more sustainable and productive than before.

In recent years, New York has dropped from 5th to 7th in state chemical production. Unlike other states that are seeing production increases, New York has lost more than a quarter of its shipments, dropping from \$41.5 billion to \$30.3 billion. This bill would only accelerate this decline.

This proposal would create a state-level chemicals regulatory program that would target specific chemicals for bans or other restrictions in consumer products, adding to the regulatory burden facing manufacturers. The legislation does not provide for an adequate, scientific, risk-based system of analysis; instead, it appears to identify chemicals of concern based on a hazard characterization alone. The legislation would also require the development of a priority chemical list, and authorizes specific state agencies to regulate such chemicals. However, the legislation simply does not provide for any process for the consideration of the assessment of alternatives or substitutions, except whether the chemical appears on any list in any state.

The Chamber believes that assessing product safety is more than simply noting the presence of a chemical substance in a formulation. It must also include considerations of product use,

At the Center of New York's Tech Valley
capitalregionchamber.com

ALBANY OFFICE

5 Computer Drive South | Colonie, NY 12205
518.431.1400

SCHENECTADY OFFICE

1473 Erie Boulevard | Schenectady, NY 12305
518.431.1400

user exposure to the chemical in the product, and the functionality of the chemical in the formulation, as well as the unintended consequences of removal of a chemical from a product. With this proposed legislation lacking such consideration, the process would only add uncertainty for New York businesses and would force companies to comply with yet another state regulatory program among an already crowded patchwork of state laws.

Instead of a state-by-state approach, the Chamber has supported the call that our nation's federal chemicals management law be updated to ensure that chemicals in commerce are safe for humans and the environment, while protecting the growth and competitiveness of businesses. Thankfully, after 20 years this has finally happened.

On June 22, 2016, President Obama signed into law the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (Public Law No. 114-182). This act, which took effect immediately, creates a cohesive, effective national chemical management system that will give consumers, retailers, manufacturers, public health and environmental advocates the regulatory confidence that the chemicals in commerce are being used safely. This act sets national regulatory standards, thereby avoiding a patchwork of state regulations that are difficult for businesses to navigate.

The Chamber appreciates this unique moment in time when the chemical industry and environmental advocates came together to support a bill that was passed by the House and Senate with overwhelming bi-partisan support and ultimately signed into law. Accordingly, we urge the state to allow time for the federal government to implement the historic chemical regulation reforms at the national level as provided under the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act.

For these reasons, the Capital Region Chamber strongly opposes S.501-B/A.6296-A.