



September 16, 2015

Debra M. Phillips
Vice President, Responsible Care and Value Chain Outreach
American Chemistry Council
700 Second St., NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Ms. Phillips:

I am a senior writer and policy analyst at the nonprofit Center for Effective Government here in Washington. Recently, I have been conducting some research into the chemical industry and the American Chemistry Council's Responsible Care program.

While I've learned a good deal about the program from your website (<http://responsiblecare.americanchemistry.com/>), I haven't been able to find information on how the Responsible Care program and ACC deal with member companies that violate our nation's workplace safety and environmental laws. I have several questions in this area, which I've laid out in three sets below.

1. Does the American Chemistry Council or its Responsible Care program sanction member or partner companies in any way if they repeatedly violate our nation's workplace safety and environmental safeguards? For example, are members of the ACC board of directors asked to leave the board if their companies repeatedly violate the principles of Responsible Care?
2. Federal law limits the maximum size of fines that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) can levy for serious workplace hazards. EPA fines, too, are often relatively low compared to a company's overall bottom line.

Does the ACC support raising the maximum fines that OSHA and EPA can impose to ensure that chemical facilities nationwide are safe and environmentally responsible? Does the ACC favor imposing fines relative to the size and financial resources of the offending corporation in order to create a positive incentive for avoiding loss of life, serious injuries, and/or major environmental contamination?

3. The Responsible Care Management System appears to be the basis for implementing and verifying a company's commitment to the Responsible Care Program. Is information on each company's efforts to comply with the Responsible Care Management System available to the public? If not, why not?



In order to assure a timely release of our report, I kindly request your response to these questions no later than Friday, Oct 2, 2015.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brian Gumm
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Center for Effective Government
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