

**Statement of**  
**Richard A. Denison, Ph.D., Senior Scientist**  
**on**  
**The Introduction of the Safe Chemicals Act of 2013**  
**April 10, 2013**

The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) welcomes today's introduction by Senators Frank Lautenberg (NJ) and Kirsten Gillibrand (NY) of the Safe Chemicals Act of 2013, which we heartily support.

As evidenced by the long list of co-sponsors representing nearly a third of the U.S. Senate, this legislation offers a comprehensive solution to reform the badly outmoded Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, the core provisions of which have never been amended.

Today's bill has been a long time in the making, and incorporates ideas and perspectives drawn from a broad range of stakeholders, which have been diligently solicited by its sponsors over several years. As the bill has evolved over this period, it has sought to strike – and has achieved – a much-needed equilibrium between the dual objectives of ensuring public health protection and spurring and sustaining a strong and safe chemicals and chemical products industry.

On each of the key elements of needed reform, the legislation balances the legitimate and often conflicting needs of different stakeholders:

- It balances the need for more and better chemical information – and public and market access to such information – with the need to protect proprietary information vital to supporting innovation.
- It balances the need for industry to be able to respond to customer demand and get new chemicals to the market quickly, with the need to ensure that only chemicals that have a reasonable assurance of safety are allowed onto the market.
- It uses risk assessment based on the best science as its core mechanism for evaluating chemical safety, while recognizing that certain chemicals of high concern warrant immediate action to reduce exposure.

- It requires that chemicals be shown to be safe even to the most vulnerable populations, while ensuring that the pace of such safety determinations will not place undue burdens on the US Environmental Protection Agency or the regulated industry.

EDF urges Congress to act expeditiously to advance TSCA reform legislation: the health of American families, and the sustainability of the chemical industry and all who depend on it, hang in the balance.