



America's Cement Manufacturers™

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March 7, 2017

Chairman Lamar Smith
The Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
2319 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson
The Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
2319 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Bernice Johnson:

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) supports the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Reform Act of 2017 and the Honest and Open New EPA Science Treatment Act (HONEST Act) of 2017. PCA is the premier policy, research, education, and market intelligence organization serving America's cement manufacturers. PCA members represent 92 percent of U.S. cement production capacity and have facilities in all 50 states. The Association promotes safety, sustainability, and innovation in all aspects of construction, fosters continuous improvement in cement manufacturing and distribution, and generally promotes economic growth and sound infrastructure investment.

PCA supports these bills because they would improve fairness and transparency in the regulatory process, while promoting use of the best available science. As you know, SAB reform is needed to update and strengthen the scientific foundation of EPA's regulatory decisions. The SAB Reform Act would improve the Science Advisory Board by ensuring balance among its members and providing better public access to scientific information and data. SAB reform is an important step toward improving EPA's regulatory process, public access to information, and transparency.

The HONEST Act would similarly improve transparency and access to information. Scientists reviewing agency studies and rulemakings need a fair chance to evaluate and validate the studies EPA relies on in the rulemaking process. The HONEST Act protects the sensitive and confidential information often covered by confidentiality agreements, while allowing EPA to make critical information available for public comment and access. The HONEST Act follows the data access requirements of many scientific journals. This level of transparency and potential for peer review are critical to improving regulatory decisions.

PCA supports the Committees' efforts to improve accountability, public access, and better science in the EPA rulemaking process. Please feel free to contact Rachel Derby, PCA's Vice President of Government Affairs, at 202-719-1983 or rderby@cement.org for further information on this matter.

Sincerely,

A. Todd Johnston
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs