



March 7, 2017

The Honorable Frank Lucas
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
Science, Space and Technology Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Representative Lucas:

On behalf of the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council) and its more than 100,000 members nationwide, I am pleased to voice our strong support for the “EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2017.”

This important legislation reforms the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Science Advisory Board (SAB) and its subpanels by strengthening public participation, improving the process for selecting expert advisors, expanding transparency requirements by board members, opening the board’s research to public review, and limiting nonscientific policy advice. The reforms proposed by the legislation are especially critical given the growing impact of EPA’s regulations on America’s small business sector, the controversial science used as the basis to advance certain rulemakings, and the need to ensure that sound science is guiding EPA actions.

Balance, independence and transparency are critical to EPA’s scientific advisory process. The bill addresses key concerns with the SAB, such as placing limitations on its members who receive environmental research

grants, applying conflict of interest standards, and ensuring balanced representation on the board's membership.

These are sensible reforms that will strengthen the SAB's integrity and work, and by extension EPA's regulatory process.

SBE Council supports solutions that improve the regulatory system to ensure the voice of small businesses and entrepreneurs is heard and considered, that they operate and compete under rational rules, and transparency throughout the regulatory process. The "EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2017" is an important legislative initiative that brings fairness, transparency and objectivity to the SAB and EPA rulemakings.

Please let SBE Council know how we can further support your efforts to advance this important legislation into law. Thank you for your leadership, and support of America's small business and entrepreneurial sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kerrigan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Kerrigan" clearly distinguishable.

Karen Kerrigan
President & CEO