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CONSTRUCTION SPECIALTIES PROMOTES TSCA REFORM AT HOUSE HEARING

Howard Williams, BIZNGO Participant, Makes The Business Case For Chemical Disclosure

(Washington, DC) – In written testimony to Congress today, Howard Williams – of Construction Specialties and a participant of the Business-NGO Working Group (BizNGO) – laid out the argument for increasing transparency and disclosure of the ingredients in chemicals.

“Identifying the chemical composition of our products is a costly and time consuming process. It requires reaching through several layers within a supply chain and pulling forward information that is unknown at certain levels, and thought to be, or is, confidential at other levels. It needlessly delays product development and places an indirect cost burden on the consumer,” Williams said in his testimony.

Williams’ testimony comes a week after the House Energy and Commerce Committee introduced legislation (HR 5820) to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) that included language requiring greater disclosure of chemicals. Increased disclosure of chemicals will enable businesses to choose to use safer, less-toxic ingredients. In so doing, downstream businesses will be able to use safer chemicals and make more informed decisions.

BizNGO had been pushing for reforms to TSCA because the toxicity of the majority of chemicals commonly used in commerce is unknown. Current law allows chemical suppliers to provide little to no information on the ingredients of their chemicals to the manufacturers.

“Given the economic and population multipliers, coupled with America’s global reach, HR 5820 becomes one of the more beneficially impactful pieces of legislation of our generation,” Williams continued.

TSCA has not been updated since it was passed 34 years ago, leaving the public exposed to chemicals that have not undergone sufficient health and safety testing. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has only required testing on approximately 200 of the more than 60,000 chemicals that were on the market in 1976 and are still used today. This is a major public health hazard that must be addressed.

A copy of Williams’ written testimony is attached.

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