



June 6, 2018

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515



Dear Chairman McCaul and Ranking Member Thompson:

We, the undersigned organizations, strongly urge you to support the Transportation Worker Identification Credential Accountability Act of 2018 (H.R. 5729), which would delay the implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) reader rule until the results of an assessment of the effectiveness of the TWIC reader rule are submitted to Congress.

In August 2016, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) issued the TWIC reader rule. Unfortunately, the final rule greatly expanded the scope of areas subject to the TWIC reader requirement beyond what was originally proposed. It is projected the final rule would roughly double the number of facilities subject to the TWIC reader requirements compared to the proposed rule, creating confusion among regulated facilities and increasing compliance costs without any proven corresponding security benefit.

In December 2016, Congress passed legislation (PL 114-278) requiring DHS to conduct an assessment of the TWIC reader program. Congress took this action in response to a report (GAO 13-198) issued by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) which called into question the TWIC reader program's effectiveness in enhancing security.

Contrary to this legislative requirement passed by Congress, no assessment of the program has been completed.

The Transportation Worker Identification Credential Accountability Act of 2018 would delay DHS and USCG from implementing the TWIC reader rule or any similar rule requiring the use of biometric transportation security cards until after submission to Congress of the results of the assessment of the effectiveness of the transportation security card program as required by law.

The organizations listed below represent thousands of American businesses that employ millions of American workers. We are manufacturers, producers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers in agriculture, chemistry, energy, forest products, medicine, and other businesses that form our nation's infrastructure.

We strongly urge you to support the Transportation Worker Identification Credential Accountability Act of 2018 and are committed to working with Congress to enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,

American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
Agricultural Retailers Association
American Chemistry Council

American Petroleum Institute
International Liquid Terminals Association
Louisiana Chemical Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Manufacturers
National Tank Truck Carriers
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Chamber of Commerce