

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations
Committee

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, House Appropriations

July 17, 2025

Dear Leader Thune and Mr. Speaker; Leaders Schumer and Jeffries; Chairs Collins and Cole;
Vice Chair Murray and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The undersigned members of the Coalition to Prevent Chemical Disasters representing labor, public health, science, and community organizations urge you to **oppose** the White House's FY26 budget proposal to eliminate the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB), and to ensure the de-funding proposal is **not included** in the appropriations text.

The CSB is an independent nonregulatory federal agency that Congress [created](#) pursuant to federal law after a deadly chemical disaster in [Institute, West Virginia](#). [Modeled after the National Transportation Safety Board](#), it is the **only** federal agency [charged with investigating](#) the root causes of industrial chemical disasters; issuing reports to Congress, EPA, and OSHA; and making recommendations to prevent future disasters. The CSB's vital investigative work has been broadly championed as essential to our nation's safety and lawmakers (both [Democratic](#) and [Republican](#)), [labor unions](#), [process safety experts](#), [states](#), and the [chemical industry](#) have long relied on and adopted its reports and recommendations.¹

Over half of the U.S. population – [177 million](#) people – lives in a potential [worst-case scenario zone](#) of a chemical catastrophe and [1 in 10 children](#) go to school within a mile of one or more hazardous chemical facilities. You do not have to live near a refinery or large chemical plant to be affected by chemical disasters. [Facilities of all sizes](#) use, store and manage hazardous chemicals and communities across the country need health and safety protection. According to data reported to EPA, between [2004-2020](#), among workers, first responders, and the public, there were approximately 3,300 reported injuries, 16,340 hospitalizations or people who required medical treatment, and 633,500 people who had to evacuate or shelter-in-place due to

¹ [Trump Wants to Close the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board - The New York Times](#)

chemical disasters – and 99 people died – at the over 2,400 reported chemical incidents nationwide.

The CSB has a budget of only \$14.4 million dollars, [as of FY 2024](#). By contrast, the disasters it investigates and strives to prevent cost billions, and threaten public safety. Chemical disasters in the most recent five years evaluated by EPA cost over [\\$2.3 billion](#), or roughly 160 times greater than the CSB budget. In 2025 alone, at least 105 serious chemical disasters, such as fires, explosions, and releases have already been [reported](#). Communities across the United States near the over 11,000 facilities managing extremely hazardous substances – and especially workers, first responders, families, and children in those communities – need sustained funding for the CSB.

In its 25-year history, the CSB has deployed to [170 chemical incidents](#), [coordinated with](#) industry; labor unions; non-profits; federal, state, and local governments; and issued [more than 1,000](#) specific and highly technical recommendations. The CSB has used federal tax dollars effectively to produce valuable information on chemical safety for the public's benefit. From July 2022 to December 2023 alone, it issued [17 backlogged investigation reports](#) on disasters in Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia, Wisconsin and beyond – and now has essential work in progress, including [investigations](#) involving serious releases in Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. The agency's recommendations, reports, [safety bulletins](#), and [educational materials](#) have been widely influential to the chemical industry, as well as government agencies, and have been used to inform better safety measures in federal regulations and improved industry best-practices. As it said in its 2020 budget request, the CSB's vision is [“a nation safe from chemical disasters.”](#) and we ask you to show bipartisan leadership to support that vision and to ensure this Board has the funding needed to continue working to investigate and help prevent future tragedies.

Although the Trump administration has proposed to de-fund the CSB, it is ultimately Congress that determines the agency's budget and members of Congress who will be accountable to their constituents if this critical work is not continued. As such, **we urge you to oppose the elimination of the CSB, ensure sustained funding of the agency at its current or an increased level**, and stand up for safety protections for workers, first responders, and the 177 million people – including millions of schoolchildren – who are most in harm's way from chemical disasters.

Thank you.

Union of Concerned Scientists

United Steelworkers

Coming Clean

Earthjustice

New Jersey Work Environment Council

Center for Environmental Health

International Union, UAW

Environmental Justice Health Alliance for

Chemical Policy Reform (EJHA)

BlueGreen Alliance