March 5, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Ms. Alexandra Dapolito Dunn  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Mr. Mark Hartman  
Acting Director  
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler, Assistant Administrator Dunn, and Acting Director Hartman,

As members of communities in states across the country impacted by trichloroethylene (TCE), we are requesting that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hold one or more public meetings to give us and other communities affected by this chemical a chance to share our deep concerns about TCE and the EPA’s draft risk evaluation of the chemical under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

TCE is a known human carcinogen that threatens the health of workers, consumers, and the millions of Americans whose water, air and land are contaminated by the chemical. Every year, over 170 million pounds of TCE are produced in or imported to the US for a broad range of uses, from refrigerant manufacturing to dry cleaning and laundry.

Over three years ago, after evaluating the health risks of certain uses of TCE, EPA determined those uses should be banned to protect worker and public health. The current administration stalled these bans, and eventually abandoned them, instead deciding – without explanation – to reevaluate these high risk uses as part of a years-long process currently underway. Beyond the delay, we are concerned that this process will ultimately fail to protect public health. In the recently released draft risk evaluation for TCE, EPA has underestimated the danger the chemical poses by ignoring major sources of exposure faced by the public and vulnerable communities and has also discounted findings from important studies on the developmental effects of early-life exposures to TCE.

Our families and our communities are among those that have been significantly impacted by TCE. We are concerned that, if finalized as drafted, this evaluation would lead to inadequate public health protections from this toxic chemical – leaving communities across the country still at risk of harm.

Only a public forum will provide the necessary opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions of the agency and engage in critical dialogue on EPA’s draft risk evaluation.
We – the undersigned – are calling on EPA to convene at least one meeting for the general public to have a chance to directly engage the agency within the comment period for the draft risk evaluation. We ask that you respond to our request within 2 weeks (by March 19) and provide enough advance notice of the meeting details to allow as many members of affected communities as possible to make the needed work and travel arrangements to attend.

Our families are counting on you.

Stacie Davidson          Azure Angelov          Kim Clark
Kari Rhinehart           Erin Krestakos-Fromson  Kara Cecil
Ann Baughman             Rosalynn Kowal           Jeremy Plummer
Patricia (Pattie) Daggett Angie Brylowski  Vickie Coop
Wesley Daggett           Angie Brumley            Shannon Lee
Natalie Daggett          Dianne Moneypenny       Kristi Combs
Beth Arkanoff            Anne Rhinehart          Kathleen Jones
Bridget Shives           Diana Hendricks         Gary Moody
Lenny Siegel             Keli Ankney             Pamela Dexter
Jane Horton              Jeff Ankney             Michelle Combs-Miner
Zoe Kelman               Rebaccesh Butterworth  Melissa Mullis
Christina N. Fletcher    Courtney Kingery        Darla Starns
Annie McCann             Sherry Wagner           Erin Hampton
April M. Adams           Eric Richards           Carissa Dukes
Amber Powers             Aubrey Bence           Kevin Smith
Lisa Hinders             Cirsten Lewis           Venita Dotson
Susan Wind               Mary C. Foley           Misty Heilman
Sarah Davin             Jessica Burnside         Kathy Carlson
Carrie Riessen           Susan Crisafulli        Amy Palmer
Kathy Carlson            Laura Combs             Jenna Dale
McKenzie Newby           Jonna Barnett           Chad Dale
Mary Beth Hensley        Stori Roy               Mary Beth Wampler
April Brandon            Erin Tilley             Kristin Nelson
Katie Plummer            Deborah Corcoran        Frances Denney
Stacey Goforth           Jami Houston            Kurt Karns
Kelly Howard  Marcy Mayhew  Kathy Thorpe
LuAnn Schreiber  Denise L. Olson  Julie Kellis
Amanda Oliver  Amy Patrick  Kellie Spock
Brandi Catellier  Amanda Peavler  Sota Mineart
Christina Losacker  Megan Novak  Denise Strait
Melody Weaver  Courtney Johnson  Charles Brumley
Matt Rhinehart  Heather Malott  Delia Bautist
Brittany Floyd  Michelle Dahl  Roxana Ilies-Correll
Melinda Smith  Kristy Booth  Kathy Chitwood
Shana May  Rita Deskins  Peggy Noonan
Christina Gilbert  Amy Ulerick  Beth Hillan-Bearsch
William F. Smith  Kris Nodley  Gabrielle Bettegnies
Shelly Smith  Tricia C. Simmons  Debra Baker
Wendy Ostermeyer  Jenny Moore  Julie Hauck
Nichole Curtis  Jonathan Thompson  Sherri A. Lefevers
Nicole Sego  Heath Oaks  Andrea Feller
Amanda Ott  Lora Hall  Denise Rodenhuis
Lorie Mundorf  Christina Blackwell  Kyle McKee
Patricia Cook  Beth Bowers  Carrie Ballard
Laural Taylor  Erin Sutton  Bob Chambers
Sara Burton  Dennis Combs  Michelle Smith
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Brooke McFann  Sandy Davis  Jeanne Laqua
Sonya Hallett  Jessica Shaffer  Kathy Jolly
Raquel Rodriguez  Carol Gill  Shirley Phillips
Cathy Whitlow-Hill  Katelyn Umberger  Roger Bjork
Monique Proffitt  Deidre Thompson  Lisa Granda
Daniel Proffitt  Lori Self-Gross  Kathy Maroney
Brian Thomas  Angela DeWitt  Donna Winkel
Carrie Thomas  Donald Scott  Thomas Merritt
Andi Campbell  Victor Velasquez  Karen Clark
Angela M Huffman  Shawn Davidson  Cassie Hanson
Lisa Whitlow-Hill  Angela Long  Denise Gullickson
Janet Hasd  Jessica Boulton  Leigh Thiel
Christine Spurgeon  Amy Stuehrenberg  Philip A. Hastings
Chris Kurtz  Susan Kingery  Jayne Hart
Sarah Huffman  Ronda Clark  Donna Kruppenbacher
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