



AMERICAN
SUSTAINABLE
BUSINESS
COUNCIL

September 19, 2017

The Honorable John A. Barrasso
Chairman
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
410 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
456 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Nomination of Michael Dourson, Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Chemical Safety And Pollution Prevention

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

The American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC), with a national network of members representing over 250,000 businesses, strongly opposes the nomination of Michael Dourson to lead the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

As the head of the industry-funded Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment, or TERA, Mr. Dourson repeatedly sought to weaken standards to protect families from dangerous chemicals, including chemicals linked to cancer, brain damage, and reproductive harm. Thirty to forty percent of TERA's funding came from the chemical industry to produce studies favoring weaker safety standards, and industry-funded studies made up more than half of the studies peer-reviewed by TERA since 1995.

The office Mr. Dourson has been nominated to head will be responsible for the risk evaluation and subsequent regulation of chemicals under the updated Toxic Substances Control Act, which Mr. Dourson sought to dramatically weaken after receiving funding from members of the chemical industry.

At a time when many businesses are successfully producing non-toxic products and consumers want stricter protections against harmful products and pesticides, Dourson has consistently argued for weaker standards and helped companies avoid liability for damages resulting from chemical pollution. Weaker standards for harmful chemicals not only increase risk of exposure, but the absence of meaningful safety standards also undermines consumer confidence across the spectrum of industries affected.

Given the funding that he has received over the years to produce studies on behalf of the chemical industry, we do not believe that Mr. Dourson would be independent in leading EPA's regulation of chemicals and pesticides. We encourage you to reject his nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

David Levine, CEO