



January 18, 2018

Dr. William A. Burke
Dr. Clark E. Parker
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Dear Chairman Burke and Refinery Committee Chairman Parker:

On behalf of the American Chemistry Council (ACC), I am writing in regards to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Refinery Committee meeting on January 20, 2018 about Proposed Rule (PR) 1410 and the possible ban or phase-out of Modified Hydrofluoric Acid (MHF).

ACC represents a diverse set of companies including those that manufacture hydrogen fluoride, also known as hydrofluoric acid (HF). As you may know, HF is an inorganic acid mainly used for producing fluorine-containing materials such as refrigerants, pharmaceutical intermediates and fluoropolymers. Other uses include metals manufacturing, glass etching and polishing, production of gasoline, stainless steel pickling, semi-conductor preparation and various applications in the chemical and specialty metal production industries. In California, the business of chemistry employs approximately 83,000 people; contributes \$1.8 billion in state and local taxes; and ships nearly \$14 billion in products to customers around the world.

Process safety and security are top priorities for ACC members and we share the SCAQMD's desire to ensure residents and workers are safe. Our industry prides itself on the initiatives we have undertaken to continuously improve the safe operations and handling of our materials. The Responsible Care® initiative is a clear example of the commitment our industry has to improving the environmental, health, safety and security (EHS&S) performance for facilities, processes and products throughout our entire operating system. More information about Responsible Care® can be found here: <https://responsiblecare.americanchemistry.com/default.aspx>

We are concerned with PR 1410 due to the impact this action could have on the local economy. According to the California Energy Commission, banning MHF could cause two Southern California refineries to cease operations, potentially disrupting business operations throughout the state. For example, the chemical industry exports approximately \$11.4 billion in products from regional ports (Customs District 27), accounting for about 12% of the value of exports leaving the area. The availability of transportation fuels is essential.

California's refineries adhere to the strictest regulations in the world, including safety measures that protect their workers and communities that surround them. If the SCAQMD feels there are process safety issues that need to be enhanced, ACC urges you to work collaboratively with the refineries to address those issues. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 916-448-2581 or tim_shestek@americanchemistry.com. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ti Sh", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

