

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 15, 2011

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

We write today to ask you to revisit an issue that was recently brought to our attention regarding the National Toxicology Program's (NTP) 12th Report on Carcinogens (ROC). The purpose of the NTP is to evaluate chemicals and their effects on the health and well-being of all Americans. It is critical that the ROC's classifications are based on sound scientific judgments that advance our protection of the public health.

The 12th ROC changed the listing of formaldehyde to a known human carcinogen. It is our understanding that the National Research Council of the National Academy of Science (NAS) released a report in April that questioned both the process used to make this classification—the original EPA health assessment on formaldehyde—and the causal relationship between formaldehyde and certain types of cancer. As you know, the NAS is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research body that has been on the forefront of providing expert advice on a myriad of scientific, engineering, and medical related matters for nearly 150 years.


We respectfully request that the Department of Health and Human Services work with the NAS to resolve the question of whether the known human carcinogen listing for formaldehyde is appropriate using the NAS' standard weight-of-the-evidence approach. While the 12th ROC was published in June, it is our understanding that there is a precedent for new scientific findings resulting in modified ROC classifications.

We share your commitment to protecting public health and look forward to your response. Should you or your staff require further clarification of our inquiry please do not hesitate to contact our staff, Jonathan McCracken at 202-224-2315, or Steve Kittredge 202-224-7602.

Sincerely,



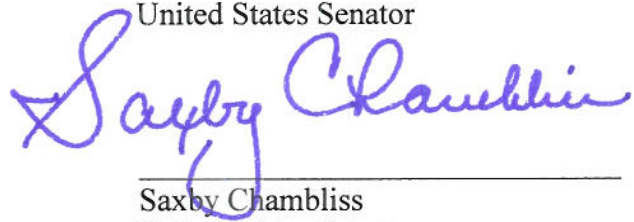
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Rob Portman
United States Senator



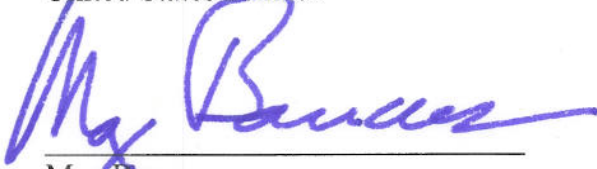
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



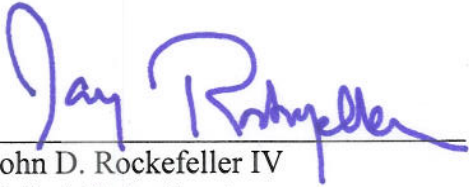
Saxby Chambliss
United States Senator



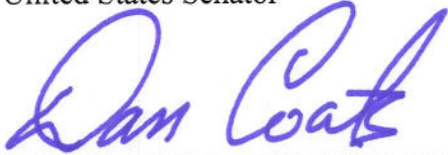
Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



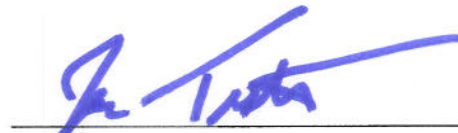
Max Baucus
United States Senator



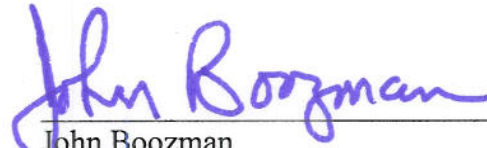
John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senator



Dan Coats
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



John Boozman
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Bob Corker
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