March 4, 2015

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 1029, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015, introduced by Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK). H.R. 1029 would modernize the policies and procedures governing the Science Advisory Board (SAB) of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure that the SAB is best equipped to provide independent, transparent and balanced reviews of the science the EPA uses to guide its regulatory decisions.

Manufacturers support policies that favor markets, adhere to sound principles of science and risk assessment and are informed by a public rulemaking process that is open and inclusive. The work of the SAB, which serves a quality control function for the science the EPA uses to justify new regulations, must be completely neutral. Any appearance of bias, however slight, could undermine the EPA’s mission to protect public health and welfare.

H.R. 1029 would strengthen the SAB by limiting conflicts of interest, encouraging public comment, prohibiting panel members from peer reviewing their own work, and ensuring that the makeup of SAB panels reflects the diversity of views among federal, state, local and tribal experts. H.R. 1029 would implement provisions and recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and the EPA’s own peer-review handbook.

As the costs of environmental regulations escalate, the scientific justification for those regulations must be sound. H.R. 1029 is a strong step in the right direction. Manufacturers urge you to vote in favor of H.R. 1029.

Sincerely,

Ross Eisenberg
Vice President
Energy and Resources Policy