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## **Cincinnati CEO joins call for chemical regulation reform Business Courier of Cincinnati**

### **Cincinnati Enquirer**

Shepherd Chemical Co. CEO Tom Shepherd joined industry leaders in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 4, calling for an overhaul of federal regulation under the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

Led by industry trade group American Chemistry Council, the officials urged Congress to modernize the law to give the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stronger authority to ensure the safe use of chemicals, they said. The new regime should be designed to create a "gold standard" that will restore public confidence in chemical safety and avoid a patchwork approach that threatens U.S. businesses.

Shepherd, who serves as chairman of the American Chemistry Council's small-business committee, said differing state and local regulations make compliance extremely expensive. Norwood-based Shepherd Chemical Co. and Shepherd Color Co. in West Chester make chemicals that are used in lithium-ion batteries in electric cars and automotive air bags. Shepherd stressed the importance of chemicals to a cleaner and safer society.

The call for reform comes as Congress is preparing to take up the issue. New Jersey Sen. Frank Lautenberg is expected to introduce an updated version of his 2008 bill, the Kid-Safe Chemicals Act, next month. A coalition of health and environmental groups operating under the moniker Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families also issued a statement this week calling for changes to regulatory standards. Spokesman Richard Denison, senior scientist with the Environmental Defense Fund, said the Chemistry Council recently moved toward his group's position but differences remain about changes needed and how to achieve them.

"Very few months ago it was saying TSCA was working just fine," Denison said of the chemical group.

Shepherd said the number of new state and local laws highlights the need for changes to TSCA. The political environment has changed, and regulations have not kept up with science and technology, he said. The council's initiative is an "invitation for collaboration ... to begin a dialogue and get some real work done on this," he said.

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Shepherd said his companies, which employ more than 400 people, are not directly hurt by the current system, but the businesses they supply are affected.

“Our health depends on the health of our customers, and their health depends on consumers’ confidence,” he said.

The author of this piece is Jon Newberry, Staff Reporter