



The Fertilizer Institute

Nourish, Replenish, Grow

Ford B. West
President

April 20, 2007

Honorable Bennie Thompson
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) supports H.R. 1680, the "Secure Handling of Ammonium Nitrate Act of 2007" pending in the House Homeland Security Committee. We were disappointed this week when an amendment offered by Rep. Dan Lungren to require registration applicants to be matched against a terrorist watch list delayed final committee action on this bill.

TFI has worked for several years for passage of this legislation which is so important to the fertilizer industry. Ammonium nitrate is a vital fertilizer for American farmers and we believe that requiring tracking of sales and distribution will not unreasonably burden legitimate sellers and users while keeping it available in the marketplace.

We do not oppose applicants being screened through a terror watch list. However, we do have concerns on delays that may be encountered in the event an individual is misidentified and believe that an expedited process must be in place.

TFI appreciates the bi-partisan way in which the committee staff has been working. We are hopeful that our concerns will be addressed and the bill can move forward without further delay.

Sincerely yours,

Ford B. West