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***U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials***

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Summary of testimony regarding H.R. 1055

H.R. 1055 essentially revokes the December 2006 rule of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA's rule is designed to reduce paperwork burdens under the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) program. The Office of Advocacy strongly supports EPA's TRI Burden Reduction rule. The TRI Burden Reduction rule will yield needed reductions in small business paperwork burdens while preserving the integrity of the TRI program and strengthening protection of the environment.

In 1994, EPA responded to the 1991 petition submitted by the Office of Advocacy for small business paperwork relief by adopting "Form A," the short form for TRI reporting. A less burdensome alternative to the long form "Form R," Form A allows companies to report their releases as a range, instead of a specific number.

Unfortunately, the Form A that was developed in 1994 was never utilized to its potential, owing to restrictive eligibility requirements subsequently imposed on the short form. The December 2006 EPA rule increased the number of small firms that can use the short form, using the same principles first adopted by EPA Administrator Browner in 1994. The rule will strengthen overall environmental performance by allowing facilities emitting zero persistent bioaccumulative toxics (PBT) to use the Form A.