



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

September 21, 2021

The Honorable Thomas Carper  
Chairman, Senate Committee on  
Environment and Public Works  
410 Dirksen SOB  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Capito  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Environment and Public Works  
410 Dirksen SOB  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, and Members of the Committee:

As a coalition of the nation's largest labor unions and environmental groups, collectively representing millions of members and supporters, the BlueGreen Alliance strongly supports the nomination of Dr. Jennifer Sass to the US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB).

The BlueGreen Alliance unites America's largest and most influential labor unions and environmental organizations to solve today's environmental challenges in ways that create and maintain quality jobs and build a stronger, fairer economy. Each year, an average of more than 180 major incidents occur at our nation's oil refineries, chemical plants, water and sewage treatment operations, and other facilities. These incidents result in deaths and injuries, environmental contamination, and permanent job loss. Often, they disproportionately harm workers in these facilities and low income and people of color living near disaster sites.

The root cause investigation work of the CSB aims to learn from the tragic incidents that do occur and keep them from happening again. An effective CSB can prevent industrial chemical accidents, lessen the impact of hazardous chemicals on communities and the environment and save the lives and jobs of workers and fence-line community residents.

In her capacity as a Senior Scientist for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) (a BlueGreen Alliance partner) Dr. Sass has demonstrated her commitment to hard work, principled review of scientific data, knowledge of chemistry and chemical hazard and ability to work well with others, including people and groups who hold opposing views. Adding Jen Sass to the CSB will bring the mission of the CSB closer to reality.

We urge you to swiftly confirm this nominee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Walsh", written in a cursive style.

Jason Walsh  
Executive Director  
BlueGreen Alliance