

Growing Chorus Calls on Congress to Restore Chemical Security Program

Large and small business, emergency responders and labor all support the **Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS)** and have sent thousands of letters urging Congress to reinstate the program.

Here's what they're saying:

"Considering the terrorist threats we face today, more than 20 years after 9/11, this situation should be viewed as unacceptable. The CFATS program is flexible and enjoys broad support from the oil and chemical industry. Industry leaders recognize that without any enforceable plans or standards – and without access to DHS's deep knowledge base on physical and cybersecurity threats – that security will be eroded and our communities will be vulnerable to attack."

-Emergency Services Sector Coordinating Council and the National Sheriffs' Association

"Additionally, the expiration of the CFATS program now opens the door for agencies with no antiterrorism expertise to fill the void or a patchwork of state and local regulations that may vary widely in scope and effectiveness. This could result in inconsistent anti-terrorism standards across the country and undermine national security.

-United Steelworkers and the American Federation of Government Employees

"CFATS plays a vital role in an era of rapidly evolving security threats by continuously assessing and addressing vulnerabilities at chemical facilities. It's a critical layer of defense that reinforces our ability to prevent and respond to potential security breaches and acts of terrorism."

-Mike Jansen, President of the Kentucky Sheriff's Association

"Chemical incidents do not respect jurisdictional boundaries, and we rely on CFATS to establish uniformity in our response. With consistent standards nationwide, we can better coordinate efforts to respond to incidents. A number of members of my union have deployed across the nation to deal with natural disasters and knowing that standards are consistent allows them to be more effective when outside their normal area of operations."

-Ryan Law, former President, Police Benevolent Association of New York State