



A MYTH UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

From life-saving medications to fuel for our cars, most people would agree: **Our lives are better because of modern chemistry.** However, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) is concerned by the attempts by federal and state policymakers to use one-size-fits-all policies to ban, restrict, or regulate entire chemical families, such as phthalates, siloxanes, fluorinated chemistries, and flame retardants.

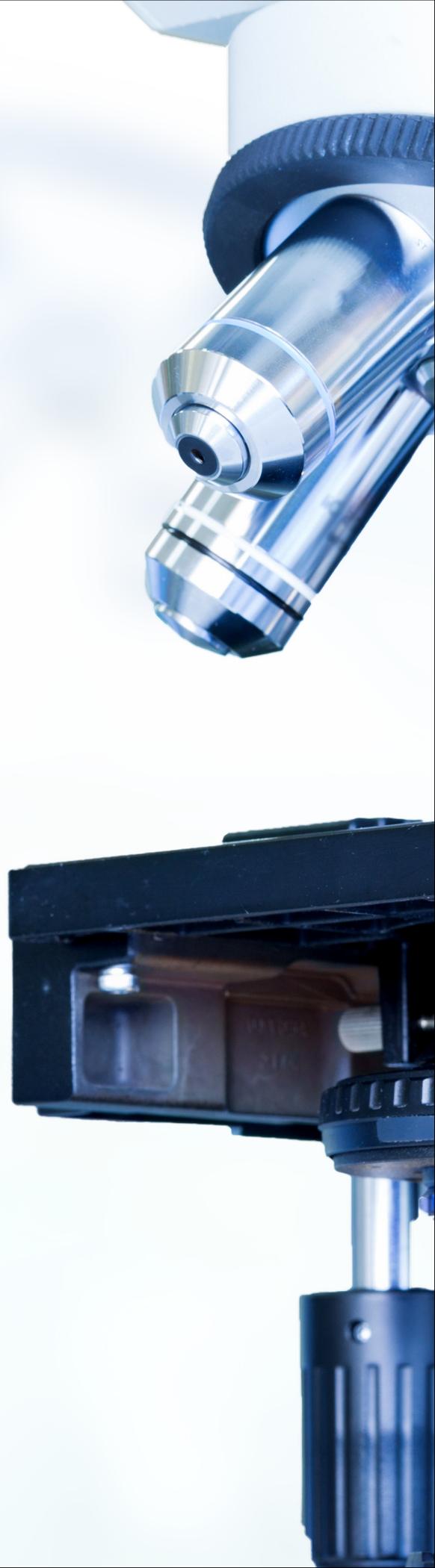
While banning, restricting, or regulating a chemical family may be well intentioned, the truth is it doesn't make for effective science-based policy.

As an industry, ACC is committed to addressing potential concerns about chemicals and supports strong regulations that protect human health and the environment. However, the growing practice of banning, restricting, or regulating entire classes of chemicals, without acknowledging individual properties and behaviors, is neither scientifically accurate nor appropriate. [The National Academies](#) evaluated the plausibility of applying a single class approach to regulate an entire family of chemicals and concluded that regulators should not treat the chemical family as a single class. They recommended using information like chemical structure, physical and chemical properties, toxicology data, and predicted biologic activity to inform decisions.

ACC supports regulation of chemistries when based on sound science and are committed to being a partner and resource for regulatory bodies and other stakeholders. Science-based regulation entails evaluating those chemistries according to their specific properties and potential risks rather than by a sweeping, broad brush approach with the potential to severely impact the function and availability of numerous products on which we rely every day.

We welcome this conversation and support rigorous efforts to understand and regulate chemicals appropriately.

LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK >



THE MYTH VS TRUTH ABOUT BANNING CHEMICAL FAMILIES



MYTH:

If a chemical is harmful in one form, it must be harmful in all others.



MYTH:

If chemicals have similar names, they should be regulated the same way.



MYTH:

The chemical industry does not want lawmakers to ban, restrict, or regulate chemicals.



TRUTH:

Each chemical within a family has its own characteristics. Think of it like the foods we eat. Yes, there are poisonous berries, but there are also blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, and many other berries with healthy benefits. Banning all berries -- because one presents a potential risk -- is groundless and illogical.



TRUTH:

Even if chemicals sound the same, it doesn't mean they act the same. A sugar maple is not the same as maple sugar. You can see how misleading focusing on just names can be. While the names of chemicals may sound alike, the differences in their use, structure, and health and environmental profiles make them unique.



TRUTH:

Defining a chemical category can be a complex process that requires expert help. General misconceptions about chemistry are common, so any time there is a ban, restriction, or regulation, it is important for expert scientists to arrive at a consensus grounded in chemical-specific findings and sound science.



The Ultimate Truth Is This:

It is critical to take into account the significant differences among the many compounds that are part of a chemical family. Rather than using a one-size-fits-all approach, a fact-based discussion about the nature of these substances, how they differ from each other, and what they do affect -- and what they don't -- should determine the risks, if any, to human health and the environment.

By banning, restricting, or regulating ENTIRE chemical families, we are eliminating the achievements that individual chemicals within these families can make possible.