

Chemical Plant Security Provision Included in Conference Spending Bill

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Chemical Plant Security Provision Included in Spending Bill after Conference

The conference report on the Iraq Accountability Act, an emergency supplemental spending bill, included language allowing the State of New Jersey to enforce chemical plant security regulations that are stricter than those approved by the federal government. Congressman Steve Rothman's (D-NJ) initial statement follows:

"I'm grateful to the House-Senate Conference Committee for keeping the best of Senator Lautenberg's language and mine. This conference bill would prevent President Bush from stopping New Jersey from protecting its citizens from chemical plant safety and security violations.

"President Bush would be wrong to veto this bill. However, I have already introduced a bill (H.R.1633) outside of the appropriations process to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from preempting more stringent chemical plant security regulations in New Jersey and other states. I also intend to fight to include my provision in any appropriate future spending bills that may be considered."

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