The prospects for TSCA legislation this year are dim. Congress is especially polarized on chemical management issues and has placed little priority on the issues that Republicans (and even some Democrats) believe are necessary for innovation—legislation that would ensure chemical companies can get new, safe alternatives to existing chemicals on the market more quickly.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works is supposed to be considering an amendment to the Sustainable Chemicals, Transparency, and Enforcement Act (SCT), a bill introduced in March by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.). Lautenberg said he intended to bring his legislation to the floor as soon as the Senate returns from its August break.

But the bill is still in the early stages of drafting. Senate clerk Brian Denison of Emerald Performance Materials, who is working on the Lautenberg amendment as the bill's chief counsel, said the senator's staff is working to finalize the amendment and get it to the Senate floor. If that happens, the amendment will have to be scheduled for a vote before the Senate adjourns.

The amendment would amend the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the 1976 law that gives EPA the authority to regulate new and existing chemicals. TSCA violations, settling alleged violations of TSCA, premarket notice (PMN) obligations for the production of various short-term chlorinated paraffins (SCPs) (an action plan chemical). The president’s proposed fiscal year 2013 budget would increase funds available to EPA, specifically to address chemical risks.

EPA has thus far not committed to revising TSCA in innovative and aggressive ways to achieve enhanced chemical management. These initiatives, which are by no means exhaustive, illustrate EPA’s commitment to enhanced chemical management. The commitment is real, and industry is feeling the pressure.

Role of the States and Reach

Two other components of chemical management are critically important to add to the mix: State chemical action and Reach. Increasingly frustrated with the slow pace of federal chemical reform, state legislatures are enacting chemical-specific or product-specific measures in record numbers. Over the last several years, a growing number of states have enacted chemical or product-specific measures without EPA, and, as a result, have offered enhanced sustainability are rewarded.

Engage with all stakeholders that will influence the outcome of the chemical management debate: nongovernmental organizations, state and federal agencies, unions, employees, customers, retailers and others. Diverse perspectives contribute to a rich discussion of the issues and may lead to solutions.

TSCA Reform

Business Strategies in Times of Political Gridlock

David Hurder

Electrochemical Industry

The Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOMA) recently announced that David Hurder was elected as chairman of its board of governors. Hurder, vice president of the privately held specialty chemical company McGean, said the stagnant economy, coupled with the partisan nature of many Washington policy debates, means real change won’t happen until industry has a competitive marketplace

Hurder succeeds Dr. Larry Breidt, president and CEO of ORC, who completed a two-year term as chairman. SOMA members also elected the following slate of officers to the Board for Governors for one-year terms:

- Vice chairman—David DeCan, Albemarle
- Treasurer and controller—Gilles Handfield, AES
- Secretary—Andy Strauss
- Immediate past chair—Dr. Larry Breidt, ORC

Additionally, the following SOMA members were elected to serve two-year terms:

- Brian French—Emerald Performance Materials
- Craig Huffman—Aldrich
- Eric Nevalle—Cambrex
- Gene Willson—Open Chemical Group

CECs Implementation Improvement

As a key U.S. congressional panel examined the implementation of the nation’s chemical safety rules, SOMA expressed its support for stronger federal oversight of the regulatory program while warning against overreach and search for improvements in the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)

Chemical companies are tuning in to help their business flourish in these fast-changing times. Stakeholders must develop new solutions and implement and flourish in these fast-changing times.