

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 15-0261R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Henry, Scott, Clarke, Kraft, President Young, Councilmembers  
Costello, Middleton, Holton, Stokes, Welch, Spector, Reisinger, Branch, Curran, Mosby  
Introduced and adopted: September 21, 2015

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**Request for Federal Action – Prevent Chemical Disasters**

FOR the purpose of calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to move quickly to finalize a strong rule requiring chemical plants and refineries to use the safest cost-effective chemicals and technology available in order to protect the millions of Americans, including many Baltimoreans, living in the shadows of potentially dangerous chemical facilities.

**Recitals**

It is vital to the safety and security of millions of Americans that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) move quickly to finalize a strong rule requiring chemical plants and refineries to use the safest cost-effective chemicals and technology available. The EPA has an historic opportunity to protect the 100 million people across the U.S. who live, work, study, and play in the shadow of dangerous chemical facilities.

We in Baltimore City, along with many other localities across the county are working to protect the people who live, work, and go to school in our neighborhoods, but we need more help. There have been over 350 chemical disasters across the nation in just the past two years, causing 79 deaths and sending nearly 1,500 victims to the hospital. Closer to home there have been at least 10 chemical incidents and disasters in Maryland over the past five years, and at least 4 chemical incidents and disasters in Baltimore over that same time span. Baltimore also hosts at least 32 potentially vulnerable chemical facilities.

To prevent more unnecessary incidents and make these chemical plants less attractive terrorist targets, we need a strong EPA rule requiring facilities to use the safest cost-effective chemicals and technology. A strong rule should also incorporate assistance and funding to cities across the country to make similar safety improvements, and co-enforce the federal standards.

We respectfully urge the EPA to use its authority to expedite the chemical security rule, so it will be finalized in time to avoid challenges. As representatives of the citizens of Baltimore, we ask the EPA to think of the citizens who live with this deadly risk every day, and work quickly to finalize a strong rule.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the Council calls on the Environmental Protection Agency to move quickly to finalize a strong rule requiring chemical plants and refineries to use the safest cost-effective chemicals and technology available in order to protect the millions of Americans, including many Baltimoreans, living in the shadows of potentially dangerous chemical facilities.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

## Council Bill 15-0261R

1       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Administrator  
2 of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Mayor, the Honorable Members of the Maryland  
3 House and Senate Delegations to the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the  
4 City Council.