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June 29, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Murkowski, and Ranking Member Merkley:

As you begin Committee work on annual spending bills, I respectfully request that you include robust funding for the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazards Investigations Board (CSB) in the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. On May 26, 2026, a chemical tank failure at the Nippon Dynawave Packaging plant in Longview, WA took the lives of 11 men and left several others severely injured. This tragedy was the deadliest industrial disaster in Washington State in decades and will have a profound impact on workers, families, and first responders across Southwest Washington for generations to come.

The CSB is an independent, nonregulatory federal agency created by Congress. In the wake of chemical disasters, CSB is tasked with investigating the circumstances and cause of the incident and providing recommendations to prevent similar disasters from ever happening again. It is through this work that families, communities, and victims get the truth and assurances they need to move forward in the wake of world altering tragedies.

In the wake of this tragedy, a team from the CSB arrived at the site the next day, ready to get to work.

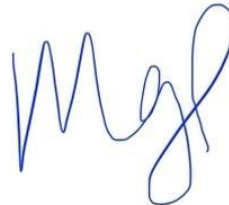
Across the nation, serious chemical accidents are on the rise. The number of serious chemical accidents exceeded 130 in 2025, marking an increase of more than 20 percent over the previous year. Furthermore, since 2020 there have been over 600 incidents reported to the CSB from 46 states¹.

The CSB currently has at least eight active investigations underway, each focused on uncovering the causes of serious incidents and providing answers to families and communities nationwide. Any decrease in funding will severely limit the CSB's ability to ensure every community has safe jobs and provide the answers that are desperately needed across the nation.

Despite the critical role the CSB plays in protecting workers and communities, the President's FY27 budget proposed eliminating the agency and reducing its funding to zero. Through bipartisan collaboration and negotiations, the House Appropriations Committee ultimately agreed to fund the CSB at the FY26 enacted level of \$14 million in their Fiscal Year 2027 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

I urge you to build on this momentum and ensure strong, sustained funding for the CSB in the Senate draft and all future appropriations bills. The Board's work is critical to delivering answers, advancing accountability, and protecting communities from future chemical disasters

Sincerely,



Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress

¹ Ramachandran, Shalini, and Jaclyn Jeffrey-Wilensky. "Serious Chemical Accidents Are Rising in the U.S.—and Getting More Dangerous." WSJ, 19 June 2026, <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/serious-chemical-accidents-are-rising-in-the-u-s-and-getting-more-dangerous-e94fab53>. Accessed 29 June 2026.