

DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

7 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138



January 10, 1997

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Dear Colleague,

We invite you to join us in signing the enclosed letter to Senator Trent Lott urging him to seek a vote of the full Senate on the Chemical Weapons Convention.

As Senate Majority Leader, Lott's active support is essential if the Convention, pending before the Senate for more than three years, is to be voted upon. If allowed to reach the floor of the Senate, the Convention is very likely to receive the support of the two-thirds majority required for advice and consent to ratification.

As background information, please find enclosed statements of support for the Convention from the American Chemical Society and the Chemical Manufacturers Association.

Sincerely,

Dudley Herschbach  
Department of Chemistry  
and Chemical Biology

Matthew Meselson  
Department of Molecular  
and Cellular Biology

PS: This is a second mailing. Due to an oversight, a return envelope was not provided in the previous mailing. Please sign the enclosed letter to Senator Lott and mail it in the enclosed envelope. The Federation of American Scientists will collect the signatures and send them with the letter to Senator Lott. Thank you.

Please return this signature page no later than 7 Feb in the enclosed envelope. Thank you.

The Honorable Trent Lott  
Russell Senate Office Building 487  
Washington, DC 20510-2403

Dear Senator Lott,

We, the undersigned scientists, urge you to work as a matter of national urgency to bring the Chemical Weapons Convention to a vote in the Senate before April 29 of this year. That is the date when the Convention will automatically enter into force, with or without the United States.

Negotiated by the administrations of Presidents Reagan and Bush and signed by the United States under President Bush in January 1993, the Convention was formally submitted to the Senate for its advice and consent to ratification by President Clinton in November 1993. Since then it has been the subject of thirteen hearings before the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services and the Select Committee on Intelligence. The Secretaries of State and Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the Director of Central Intelligence and the representatives of the Chemical Manufacturers Association have all testified strongly in favor of ratification. More than 65 countries, including all of our major allies, have ratified.

If the Senate fails even to vote on the CWC, after three administrations have been its leading architects and proponents, the United States will have surrendered by default its essential leadership in combatting the proliferation of chemical weapons.

Respectfully,

Signed.....

Printed Name.....

Affiliation (for identification only).....

(All signatories are members of the United States National Academy of Sciences)

Statement by the  
Chemical Manufacturers Association  
November 5, 1996

*On Friday, November 1, Hungary became the 65<sup>th</sup> nation to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), an international treaty banning possession and use of chemical weapons. The treaty will now go into effect on April 29, 1997. In September, the U.S. Senate indefinitely postponed a vote on U.S. ratification of the treaty, raising the likelihood that the treaty will enter into force without U.S. participation. The Chemical Manufacturers Association issued the following statement:*

There is no excuse for further delay. The U.S. Senate should make ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention a top priority when Congress reconvenes in January. Ratifying it is the right thing to do.

The U.S. is the chief architect of this treaty, but today we face the very real prospect of not being an original party to the Convention. The treaty's goal is to ban and eliminate all chemical weapons stockpiles. The U.S. shares that goal and is already implementing an identical policy: the government stopped producing chemical weapons many years ago and is now destroying its inventories. It's time for the U.S. to bring its foreign and domestic policies into alignment by joining the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Critics cite many reasons for opposing the CWC. One argument is that the treaty will weaken U.S. laws controlling exports of sensitive products to rogue nations. That is simply not true. The Chemical Weapons Convention does not trump U.S. export control laws. Instead, the treaty will expand and improve the effectiveness of U.S. non-proliferation policy by instituting a strong system of multilateral export controls. The CWC does not lower the bar on U.S. non-proliferation policy. It raises the bar for other nations to the same high standard held by the U.S.

The U.S. chemical industry strongly supports Senate ratification of the CWC. We believe the benefits of the treaty far outweigh the costs. The U.S. is already committed to a policy of eliminating chemical weapons. Joining the treaty is a natural extension of that policy. We call on the U.S. Senate to act swiftly to ratify this important treaty.



## American Chemical Society

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

1155 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036  
Phone: (202) 872-4461  
Fax: (202) 872-6338Ronald Breslow  
President-Elect, 1995  
President, 1996  
Immediate Past President, 1997

August 9, 1996

The Honorable Jesse Helms  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Helms:

The American Chemical Society (ACS) is the world's largest scientific organization with over 150,000 chemical scientists and engineers employed in industry, academia, and government. In view of the current debate on ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Society offers its perspective.

The American Chemical Society strongly supports the overall goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention and urges immediate ratification of the treaty. Further, the Society believes that, after treaty ratification, the Congress should expedite consideration and passage of the needed implementing legislation.

For over a decade, the U.S. chemical industry has worked with the negotiators to craft the treaty. The industry continues to work to ensure that the treaty and its implementation are not unduly burdensome on American business. The U.S. chemical industry, with its positive trade balance and a \$60 billion per year export business, has generated thousands of jobs. Without U.S. ratification, a treaty in force will adversely affect this industry as overseas customers start switching to suppliers in countries that have ratified the Convention.

The ACS's congressional charter imposes a responsibility to provide assistance to the government in matters of national concern related to its areas of expertise. The American Chemical Society has a long history of discussion on chemical warfare policies and of advising the government in this area. As the Senate deliberates on the treaty and its implementation, the Society offers its support and expertise. If we can provide assistance on this important issue, please call on us.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald Breslow".

Ronald Breslow

A similar letter was also transmitted to every Member of the Senate.