



# Letter to the Editor

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## **CCNJ SUPPORTS STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' DECISIONS TO LIMIT ACCESS TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANS**

*This letter was published in the December 14, 2014 edition of the Bergen Record.*

Dear Editor:

Regarding "[Groups concerned about crude oil on railways seek access to emergency plans](#)":

The Chemistry Council of New Jersey, which represents many of the state's leading manufacturers, supports state and local governments' decisions to limit access to emergency preparedness plans to those who are entrusted with protecting the community.

New Jersey has worked in a precedent setting fashion with industry to improve safety and security at chemical manufacturing facilities.

As required by federal law, our members participate in several safety-related programs, including the Community Right to Know Survey that lists the inventory of hazardous substances produced, stored or used at their facilities. The annual report generated by this exercise ensures that police and fire departments, and all emergency responders, are provided with updated information to properly plan for an emergency to protect the surrounding community and environment.

In addition, member companies follow the state's Toxic Catastrophe Prevention Act and EPA's Risk Management Plan regulations. In order to meet these regulations, our facilities review and evaluate those processes that utilize extremely hazardous substances and perform periodic risk assessments to dramatically reduce the potential and ultimately the consequences of a potential release. Response plans for handling these hazardous materials are filed with the EPA, NJDEP and the local Office of Emergency Management.

Industry is just as concerned as the general public about the safe and secure operations of its facilities. Improving the safety and security at our chemical facilities is something Council members take seriously. Our members routinely update, exercise and share these plans with the emergency responders and local officials, but believe it's in all of our best interest to protect this information from being used improperly to potentially harm our communities.

Sincerely,

Hal Bozarth  
Executive Director  
Chemistry Council of New Jersey, *a member of the NJ Coalition for Affordable Power*

*The Chemistry Council of New Jersey (CCNJ), founded in 1955, is the premier trade and advocacy organization representing the interests of about 75 New Jersey manufacturers in the business of chemistry. Our membership consists of large and small companies that are part of New Jersey's chemical, pharmaceutical, consumer packages goods, petroleum refining, flavor & fragrances and precious metals industries. The CCNJ is committed to a better quality of life through science.*