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## US group asks for carcinogen review

US styrene industry officials told Congress on April 25 that a federal government finding that styrene likely causes cancer is the result of a flawed process that lacks scientific credibility and needs a congressional overhaul.

James Bus, who is the director of external technology, toxicology and environmental research at US producer Dow Chemical, told the House Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight that there are multiple scientific shortcomings with how the federal government evaluates the

health impact of chemical substances. Speaking for the Styrene Information and Research Center (SIRC), Bus said that the federal National Toxicology Program (NTP) "falls well short of producing evidence-based listing decisions."

### IMPACT ON INDUSTRY

Bus and other styrene industry officials testified about the business and commercial consequences of last year's National Toxicology Program ruling that styrene was a possible carcinogen.

Executives of companies that use styrene as a feedstock told the House panel that if allowed to stand, the Toxicology Program's determination would force them out of business and drive some 250,000 US manufacturing jobs to other countries.

As a final court ruling could be years away, styrene industry officials had asked Congress to order a scientific review of NTP's decision by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). The review is expected to get underway this year. ■

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