

(Newark, N.J.) On the 25th anniversary of the law

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TRI was established through legislation authored by Senator Lautenberg and signed into law as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The measure requires owners of facilities to report annually on the amount of toxic chemicals that have been released into the air, water or land. These facilities are also required to report how they dispose of chemicals that are not released into the environment.

"When TRI became a reality 25 years ago, our communities and our citizens gained a powerful new tool for defending their health, their environment and the health of their children," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "Serving the public's right-to-know, ensuring that our data is based on the best science and full transparency, and making sure that it is as accessible as possible are critical to everything we do at the EPA. That is why the TRI an indispensable part of fulfilling our mission to protect the health of the American people."

"Everyone has a right to know if danger is lurking in their own backyard, but for a long time, Americans were denied this basic right," said Senator Lautenberg. "The Toxic Release Inventory shows how government empowers people to improve their lives. This common sense law makes sure parents have the information they need to keep their children healthy and safe. I'm proud this movement began in New Jersey and has improved the lives of people all across the country."

"People have the right to know what toxic chemicals are being stored or disposed of in their communities. And we all have Senator Lautenberg to thank for creating that right 25 years ago," said Senator Menendez. "I was proud to work with him to fight off efforts to weaken this fundamental right and look forward to continuing to protect public health with him for years to come."

The EPA has identified numerous uses of TRI data by government, businesses and citizens. Its use enables the public to identify sources of toxic chemical releases, helps analyze potential toxic chemical hazards to human health and the environment and assesses environmental and public health issues that may affect communities. Earlier this year, the Aspen Institute called TRI one of the ten biggest ways EPA has improved America.

In 2006, the Bush Administration EPA finalized a rule that weakened the TRI program by eliminating the requirement to report specific quantities of releases for thousands of smaller facilities nationwide. However, in March 2009, President Obama signed into a law a provision written by Senator Lautenberg that overturned

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the rule and restored reporting requirements back to the pre-Bush Administration standards.

One of the best indicators that the TRI program has been a success is the steady and significant decline in releases since 1988 – the first full year of data on toxic releases. Since 1988, toxic releases from facilities required to report in New Jersey have declined by more than 94 percent in New Jersey.

For more information on the Toxics Release Inventory, visit: For a full list of reporting US VI facilities, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/tri> [1].

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