

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES



U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board



BOARD MEMBER

Steve Owens

U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB)

Steve Owens was nominated by President Joseph Biden to the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board on April 29, 2021 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on December 9, 2021. He began his post on February 3, 2022.

Member Owens practiced environmental, safety and health law in Phoenix, Arizona, focusing on the safe production, management, distribution and use of chemicals and chemical safety regulations and requirements, prior to joining the CSB.

During his appointment under the Obama-Biden Administration, Member Owens served as the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSP), appointed by President Barack Obama. Member Owens managed EPA's chemical regulatory and scientific programs under the Toxic Substances Control Act and other statutes, and, among other initiatives, made increased transparency for chemical information and expanded public access to health and safety data on chemicals a top priority.

Prior to joining EPA, Member Owens was Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, where he oversaw the department's policies and regulations relating to chemical safety and hazardous substances, including the department's role in responding to chemical hazards and other emergency situations. During his tenure, the department increased its emergency response capabilities and worked to ensure the security of potentially at-risk chemical facilities and other critical infrastructure in the State.

Member Owens was appointed to the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC), by President William Clinton and served on EPA's Clean Air Act Advisory Committee and EPA's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee. Member Owens also served as President of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the national association of state environmental agency directors.

Member Owens began his career as Counsel to the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee of the U.S. House Science & Technology Committee, chaired by then-U.S. Representative Al Gore. Member Owens later served as Chief Counsel and then State Director for Senator Gore in the U.S. Senate. Member Owens graduated with honors from Brown University and received his law degree from Vanderbilt Law School, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Vanderbilt Law Review.