



U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

Office of General Counsel

Memorandum

To: Chairperson and Board Members
From: Christopher Warner *Christopher Warner*
Cc: Leadership Team
Subject: Board Action Report – Notation Item 540
Date: March 27, 2007

On March 14, 2007, Notation Item 540 was calendared. Once an item is calendared, the other Members' votes on the item are suspended and a new vote must be taken. The item would have provided for the Board actions necessary to establish, through memoranda of understanding, a working relationship between the CSB and the Taiwan National Science and Technology Center for Disaster Reduction.

Voting Summary – Notation Item 540

Disposition: CALENDARED

Disposition date: March 14, 2007

	Approve	Disapprove	Calendar	Withhold	Not Participating	Date
C. Merritt	X					3/14/2007
J. Bresland			X			3/15/2007
G. Visscher					X	
W. Wark			X			3/14/2007
W. Wright					X	

Mr. Wark's comments:

I would like to Calendar Notation Item 540 for discussion at a full Board meeting.

The reasons include the following;

1-We continue to struggle for more resources to accomplish the core mission of the CSB, while at the same time focusing considerable attention, time and resources on “nice-to-do” vs. the “must do.”

2- In our recent budget testimony to Congress, we cited the impact that resource shortages have had/could have on fulfilling our mission. I believe our time would be better spent seeking agreement with Congress on the importance of resourcing our work here at home.

3- On its face, the usefulness of such an agreement is questionable, at best, and in my opinion could end up causing undue work and distractions for staff, as has been the case to some degree by recent past experiences.

4- International outreach is important when conducted in the proper context and , in my opinion, could be accomplished without such an agreement.

5.- I'm also concerned that we not interject the Board into a relationship – no matter how noble or tenuous—which could result in unintended consequences impacting international relations.