

Opening Statement of the Honorable John Shimkus
Mark-up of S. 710, “The Hazardous Waste Electronic Establishment
Act”
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy
July 26, 2012

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today, we markup S. 710, “The Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest Establishment Act.”

A system for filing manifests electronically is more needed than ever. Testimony at our e-manifest hearing on June 21, 2012 confirmed that electronic filing makes sense for users, Federal and state regulators, first responders, and the public.

Today, entities that handle hazardous waste from the factory where it is generated to the final storage or disposal site must file multiple copies of paper manifests. These manifests are subsequently “postal” mailed to state regulators and back to the original waste generator. In the electronic age, the burdens and inefficiencies created by the existing system for both government and the private sector are real and must be addressed. In fact, EPA testified that the paper hazardous waste manifest burden is the most expensive burden EPA imposes under Subtitle C of RCRA.

Besides the cost reductions for waste handlers, states, and the federal government, there are other key benefits to an e-manifest system. These include real-time access to critical public safety and security information for first responders, better tracking services for our citizens, improved data for informed policy decisions and program management, and greater accountability for how hazardous wastes are transported and managed.

I will offer an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute that represents a bipartisan compromise to both improve the operation of the bill and address issues unique to the House. I urge all Members to support this Amendment and report the bill favorably.