



# The Fertilizer Institute

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## **THE FERTILIZER INSTITUTE TESTIFIES ON RETAIL CHEMICAL SECURITY**

### **ASMARK, Inc. Describes Fertilizer Retailers' Efforts to Secure Facilities**

Washington, D.C. – The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) today testified before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection and Cybersecurity regarding steps fertilizer retailers are undertaking to ensure their facilities and products remain secure. The testimony, provided on TFI's behalf by Allen Summers of ASMARK, Inc., cited the extensive steps that the nation's fertilizer retailers are undertaking to ensure the security of chemicals they store and apply.

“Our strong commitment to security can be seen in the many steps already taken to secure our facilities, our farms and our food supply,” said Summers who co-owns a retail farm supply outlet and farms over 800 acres of corn, soybean and wheat. Retailers across the country have voluntarily conducted security assessments and developed security plans in response. The agricultural community has done so much to improve security and must receive credit for the voluntary actions we have already taken.”

“As a farmer, retailer and regulatory consultant, Allen Summers is uniquely qualified to testify to the steps fertilizer dealers have taken to secure their facilities and products,” said TFI President Kraig R. Naasz. “At the same time, Summers represents the commitment shared by all members of the fertilizer industry to ensure that our products are utilized for their intended beneficial use and kept out of the hands of terrorists.”

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Summers cited TFI's Security Code of Management Practices and the Web-based security vulnerability assessment (SVA) tool, which was developed by the Agribusiness Security Working Group and is used by more than 2,500 agribusiness retailers, as examples of some of the voluntary measures taken by the agriculture community. The Agribusiness Security Working Group is comprised of TFI, the Agricultural Retailers Association and CropLife America.

Summers' testimony pointed to the SVA tool as an invaluable security program that assists retailers in developing security plans to address threats, risks and vulnerabilities.

"Most recently, Clemson University purchased the tool, making it available to all agribusiness retailers in South Carolina and just last week, I was contacted by the Alabama Department of Homeland Security regarding its potential interest in an arrangement to make the SVA available to all agribusinesses in Alabama. Naturally, we look forward to working with other states that might be interested in using the SVA to improve agribusiness facility security," Summers told the subcommittee.

A TFI member company, ASMARK, Inc. offers security and compliance assistance services regarding numerous regulatory requirements including: Department of Transportation driver qualification requirements; the Environmental Protection Agency's Risk Management Program; and Occupational Safety and Health Administration hazard communication regulations. Today, ASMARK helps more than 985 clients comply with federal regulations and meet industry security standards. ASMARK's clients include large, multi-outlet agribusiness retail dealers as well as smaller independent agribusinesses.

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*The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) represents the nation's fertilizer industry. Producers, retailers, trading firms and equipment manufacturers which comprise its membership are served by a full time Washington, D.C., staff in various legislative, educational and technical areas as well as with information and public relations programs.*