



Investor Environmental Health Network

HEALTHY PEOPLE...HEALTHY BUSINESS

June 5, 2017

The Honorable Tony Avella
Room 902, LOB
Albany, NY 12247
avella@nysenate.gov

The Honorable Felix Ortiz
LOB 731
Albany, NY 12248
OrtizF@nyassembly.gov

Dear Senator Avella and Assembly member Ortiz:

On behalf of the undersigned New York investors, I am writing to express our support for S.6034/A.7950, which calls upon the New York State Department of Health, in conjunction with the Department of State and the Department of Environmental Conservation, to publish a list of chemicals of high concern as the first step in promoting disclosure by manufacturers of their presence in products marketed to children.¹

Hazardous chemicals produce a tremendous drag on the US economy.ⁱ Data continue to accumulate on their presence in fetuses' cord blood, breast milk and blood. They have been linked to a wide array of human health disorders, including asthma, learning and developmental disabilities, reproductive disorders, diabetes, and certain cancers.ⁱⁱ Children are especially at risk because of their increased vulnerability during development.

Savings in health care costs from reducing exposures vary among studies, but routinely add up to billions of dollars annually. Chemical hazards lower worker productivity and raise corporate health care costs. Those leading to neurological impairment can relegate to the social welfare system individuals who otherwise could be productive contributors to the workplace. As widely diversified investors, we are concerned about the impact of these costs on the value of our portfolios. As investors, the publication of a list of chemicals of high concern aids us in monitoring risk in our portfolios, and allowing us to engage with the companies we invest in to encourage a shift to safer materials.

Safer chemicals and materials can reduce or eliminate these costs. Many well-known companies, such as WalMart, Target, and SC Johnson, to name just a few, have been taking strong steps to increase product disclosure and to reduce hazard to consumers, but strong government regulation is essential to lower exposures across the private sector.

¹ The Investor Environmental Health Network is a collaborative partnership of investment managers concerned about the financial and public health risks associated with corporate toxic chemicals policies. IEHN, through dialogue and shareholder resolutions, encourages companies to adopt policies and practices that continually and systematically reduce and eliminate these hazards in their products and activities. IEHN members manage approximately \$55 billion in assets.

The need to reduce the use of toxic chemicals can drive corporate innovations in safer chemistries. Companies producing and selling safer materials can gain market share, grow their top- and bottom-lines, and enhance their brands.

S.6034/A.7950 will enable New York State to join California, Maine, Oregon, Vermont and Washington, other states that have recognized the need to step forward to protect children from toxic chemicals because of inadequate essential protective measures by the federal government.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely yours,



Richard A. Liroff
Executive Director

On behalf of:

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
New York, NY

Domini Impact Investments
New York, New York

Miller/Howard Investments
Woodstock, NY

Hansen's Advisory Services, Inc.
Fayetteville, NY

SRI Investing LLC
Member, First Affirmative Financial Network
New York, New York

Mercy Investment Services, Inc.
New York, NY

Consonance Capital Partners
New York NY

Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment
Montclair, New Jersey

St. Josephs Health
Syracuse, New York

Saint Peter's Health Partners
Albany NY

Socially Responsible Investment Committee
Bard College
Annandale-on-Hudson, New York

Maryknoll Sisters
Maryknoll, NY

Congregation de Notre Dame
New York, NY

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
New Windsor, NY

Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Blauvelt, NY

Sisters of St Dominic
Amityville, NY

Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation
Sisters of Charity of New York
Bronx, NY

Gretchen & Stephen Viederman
New York, NY

ⁱ T.M. Attina, et al., “Exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the USA: a population-based disease burden and cost analysis”, *The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology*, 2016, [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/landia/article/PIIS2213-8587\(16\)30275-3/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/landia/article/PIIS2213-8587(16)30275-3/abstract).

ⁱⁱ See, e.g., A.C. Gore et al., “EDC-2: The Endocrine Society’s Second Scientific Statement on Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals,” 2015, <https://www.endocrine.org/-/media/endsociety/files/publications/scientific-statements/edc-2-scientific-statement.pdf?la=en> and D. Bennett et al., “Project TENDR: Targeting environmental neuro-developmental risks. The TENDR consensus statement”, 2016, *Environ Health Perspect*; DOI:10.1289/EHP358, <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/ehp358/#tab1>.