

**198 ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, LABOR, AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE
INVESTMENT ORGANIZATIONS CALL ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO:
SUPPORT THE PALLONE-SOLIS TOXIC RIGHT-TO-KNOW AMENDMENT
TO THE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL**

May 17, 2006

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 196 undersigned organizations, we urge you to vote yes on the Pallone-Solis Toxic Right-To-Know Amendment to the Interior Appropriations Bill. The Amendment will prevent the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from moving forward with a set of proposed changes to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). The EPA's changes would make it more difficult for citizens to track toxic pollution in their neighborhoods and take steps to reduce the impact on their family's health.

For 20 years, TRI has been an essential tool in alerting communities, workers, first responders, and public health officials to the presence of chemicals and has provided critical assistance in dealing with highly hazardous situations.

Weakening the TRI program, the EPA plans to:

1. Move from annual to biennial reporting, leaving a gap every other year during which companies could pollute as much as they want without reporting.
2. Allow companies to release ten times the amount of toxics before detailed reporting is required.
3. Create a first-ever exemption on reporting the most dangerous class of chemicals— Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs), like lead and mercury.

The TRI program has undoubtedly prevented many dangerous, and even deadly, chemical exposures and accidents. It deserves the protection that the Pallone-Solis Amendment would provide. Emergency responders, workers, public health officials, environmentalists, community residents, and federal and state officials routinely rely on TRI. From 1998 to 2003, TRI documented a 2.8 billion pound reduction in the annual release and disposal of toxic chemicals.

The changes would have minimal benefits for businesses. Small businesses are exempt from reporting to TRI, and reporting companies would still have to perform calculations to determine if they meet the new thresholds. General Electric stated that, "EPA's current proposal to expand applicability for Form A would not provide significant burden reduction."

Please preserve and protect the TRI program as it currently stands by voting yes for the Pallone Solis Toxic Right-To-Know Amendment to the Interior Appropriations Bill.

Sincerely,

Action for a Clean Environment, GA
ActionPA, PA
Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, LA
AFL-CIO, US
Agricultural Resources Center & Pesticide Education Project, NC
Airaware, IN
Alabama Environmental Council, AL
Alabama Rivers Alliance, AL
Alaska Community Action on Toxics, AK
Alliance For A Clean Environment, PA
Alliance for Healthy Homes, DC
Alliance for Sustainability, MN
Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare, IL
American Association of Law Libraries, US
American Association of People with Disabilities, US
American Body Conservancy, IL
American Library Association, US
American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago, IL
American Lung Association of New Jersey, NJ
American Lung Association, US
American Nurses Association, US
American Public Health Association, US
American Rivers, US
American Working Group for National Policy, Inc., IL
Annie Appleseed Project, FL
Association of Research Libraries, US
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators, VA
Atlantic States Legal Foundation, Inc., NY
Black Warrior Riverkeepers, AL
Blue Skies Alliance, TX
BOLD Teens of Boston, MA
Boston College Law School Environmental Law Society, MA
Breast Cancer Action, CA
Breast Cancer Fund, CA
Buckeye Environmental Network, OH
Calhoun County Resource Watch, TX
California Safe Schools, CA
Californians for Alternatives to Toxics, CA
Calvert Asset Management Company, Inc., MD
Cancer Awareness Coalition, Inc., NY
CARE Lockport, IL
Center for Democracy and Technology, DC
Center for Health, Environment and Justice, VA
Center for International Environmental Law, DC
Center for Media and Democracy, WI
Central New York Council on Occupational Safety and Health, NY
Chicago Media Watch, IL
Children's Health Environmental Coalition, CA
Children's Environmental Health Network, US
Citizen Alert, NV
Citizens Active in Reclaiming the Environment, IL

Citizens Against Ruining the Environment, IL
Citizens Campaign for the Environment, NY
Citizens' Environmental Coalition, NY
Citizens for A Clean Environment, Inc., NY
Citizens for Clean Air and Water, CO
Citizens for Environmental Justice, TX
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger
Citizens Opposing a Polluted Environment, CA
Clean Air Council, PA
Clean Water Action, US
Cleveland Communities Organized Against Lead, OH
Common Cause, US
Commonweal, CA
Communications Workers of America, US
Computer TakeBack Campaign, CA
Cook Inletkeeper, AK
Cross Community Coalition, Family Resource Centers, CO
Crude Accountability, CA
DataCenter, CA
Domini Social Investments, RI
Don't Waste Arizona, Inc., AZ
Downwinders at Risk, TX
Earth Day Coalition, OH
Ecology Center, MI
Edmonds Institute, WA
Environment and Human Health, Inc., CT
Environment California, CA
Environment Illinois, IL
Environment Texas, TX
Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power, PA
Environmental Community Action Inc., GA
Environmental Defense, US
Environmental Health Fund, MA
Environmental Health Watch, OH
Environmental Integrity Project, DC
Environmental League of Massachusetts, MA
Environmental Stewardship Concepts, VA
Environmental Working Group, DC
EnviroSpec, CA
Erie County Environmental Coalition, PA
Families Against Cancer & Toxics, AZ
Florida Consumer Action Network, FL
Florida Public Interest Research Group, FL
Food & Water Watch, DC
Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, CA
Friends of the Earth, US
Friends of the Earth, UK
Global Community Monitor, CA
Government Accountability Project, DC
Great Lakes United, NY
GreenFaith, NJ

Health & Environmental Justice-St. Louis, MO
Health Care Without Harm, VA
Healthy Building Network, DC
Help Save Our Mountains, WV
Informed Choices, LA
Institute for Children's Environmental Health, WA
International Center for Technology Assessment, DC
International Union, United Auto Workers, US
Iowa Citizen Action Network, IA
JSI Center for Environmental Health Studies, MA
Kansas Natural Resource Council, KS
Kentucky Resources Council, KY
Lake County Conservation Alliance, IL
Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation, FL
Literacy for Environmental Justice, CA
Louisiana Environmental Action Network, LA
Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, University of Massachusetts Lowell, MA
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Advocacy Taskforce, OH
Lyons Incinerator Opponent Network, IL
Maine Labor Group on Health, ME
ManaSota-88, FL
Military Toxics Project
Montana Environmental Information Center, MT
Mothers Against Airport Pollution, IL
National Association of SARA (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act) Title III Program Officials, US
National Freedom of Information Coalition, MO
Natural Resources Defense Council, US
NC Conservation Network, NC
New Jersey Public Interest Research Group, NJ
New Jersey Sierra Club, NJ
New Jersey Work Environment Council, NJ
New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH), NY
New York Environmental Law & Justice Project, NY
NJ Environmental Federation, NJ
North American Hazardous Materials Management Association, WA
North Coast Civic Association, CA
Northern Alaska Environmental Center, AK
Northern Alaska Environmental Center, AK
Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, OR
Nuclear Energy Information Service, IL
Oceana, US
Ohio Citizen Action, OH
Ohio Environmental Council, OH
OMB Watch, DC
Oregon State Public Interest Research Group, OR
Oregon Toxics Alliance, OR
Patient Alliance for Neuroendocrine-immune Disorders Organization for Research and Advocacy, FL
Pembina Institute, Canada
Penn Environment, PA
Pennsylvania Clean Water Action, PA

Pesticide Action Network North America, CA
Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health, PA
Pipeline Safety Trust, WA
Planning and Conservation League, CA
Political Economy Research Institute, MA
Protect All Children's Environment, NC
Public Citizen, US
Public Knowledge, DC
Relational Culture Institute, CA
Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, VA
Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural, DC
SafeMinds, GA
Sassafras Audubon Society, IN
Science and Environmental Health Network, IA
Sciencecorps, MA
Service Employees International Union, US
Sierra Club, US
Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, CA
Society of Professional Journalists, FL
South Cook County Environmental Action, IL
South Metro Greens, IL
South Texas Colonia Initiative, Inc., TX
Southern California Public Health Association, CA
Southwest Neighbors Protecting Our Environment, OH
Southwest Research and Information Center, NM
Space Coast Progressive Alliance, IN
Stand Up/Save Lives (representing 101 municipalities), IL
StopSprawlMart.org, MA
Strategic Counsel on Corporate Accountability, MA
Texas Campaign for the Environment, TX
The Arc of the United States, US
The Center for Corporate Policy, DC
The New England Consortium, MA
The Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health, PA
The Unison Institute, DC
Toronto Environmental Alliance, Canada
Union of Concerned Scientists, MA
United Cerebral Palsy, US
United Steelworkers, US
US Environmental Watch, NY
Valley Watch, Inc., IN
Vanguard Environmental, Inc., OK
Walden Asset Management, MA
Waterkeeper Alliance, NY
West County Toxics Coalition, CA