

September 4, 2012

Re: Funding for the Report on Carcinogens in FY 2013

The Honorable Denny Rehberg
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education & Related Agencies
Appropriations
Room 2358 Rayburn HOB
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education & Related Agencies
Appropriations
Room 1016 Longworth HOB
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rehberg, Ranking Member DeLauro:

We, the undersigned are occupational and environmental health scientists and professionals. We strongly support the work of the National Toxicology Program (NTP) and the Report on Carcinogens (ROC) program. On July 18, 2012, the House Appropriations subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies reported out the fiscal year 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) funding bill, which includes funding for programs within the health-related agencies, including the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). We are concerned with a short paragraph on page 52 of the bill, which says:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to environmental health sciences, \$684,755,000; *Provided*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used by the National Toxicology Program (NTP) for the purposes of the Report on Carcinogens (ROC) unless and until 30 days after the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) peer review of the ROC process and listing criteria requested in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 112-74 has been completed.¹

The statement above refers to the joint explanatory statement that accompanied Public Law 112-74, in FY2012 House report 112-331. However, the FY13 bill quoted above misrepresents the FY12 conference agreement, which specified \$1 million, *“for the Assistant Secretary for Health to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a scientific peer review of the 12th Report on Carcinogens determinations related to formaldehyde and styrene. Included in the*

*review should be all relevant, peer-reviewed research related to both formaldehyde and styrene.”*² The NAS review is therefore intended by Congress in the FY12 bill to be a science-only review on two specific chemicals, and not a review of the ROC process or listing criteria. The NAS review therefore should not be used to hold up any of the work of the ROC on any other chemicals.

We strongly believe that there is no reasonable ground for delaying progress on the next ROC. The ROC adheres to a transparent, rigorous and expert-driven process for listing chemicals, and provides the public and medical community with scientifically rigorous information about the potential of environmental chemicals to contribute to cancer hazards.

The ROC follows an extensive multi-step process that includes independent external peer review, expert advisory reviews, and ample opportunity for public comment.³ This is among the most transparent chemical evaluation processes in government. The science staff that develops the ROC conducts extensive reviews of the scientific literature that includes three interagency reviews, six opportunities for public comment, and two external expert scientific reviews including one by its Board of Scientific Counselors which represents industry, government, and academic scientists.

The ROC listings meet the standard of scientific excellence on which scientists and regulators rely. The recent listings of formaldehyde and styrene in the 12th ROC are consistent with authoritative bodies around the world. Formaldehyde, which was classified as a known carcinogen in the recent ROC, is also listed as a known human carcinogen by the World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer. Styrene is regulated as a Hazardous Air Pollutant by EPA, and considered possibly carcinogenic to humans by the World Health Organization. The 12th ROC listing of styrene as “reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen” is consistent with international scientific consensus regarding styrene’s toxicity.

The ROC process is a model for how to summarize the state-of-the-science on chemicals and cancer. As occupational and environmental health scientists, we firmly believe that building scientific consensus in the U.S. about chemical carcinogens is essential for effectively and efficiently protecting the public’s health and worker health. Furthermore, by providing the public with updated scientific consensus evaluations of the potential cancer risks from workplace and environmental contaminants, it informs American businesses wishing to establish scientifically grounded programs to create safer workplaces and safer products.

This FY13 rider is indistinguishable from a request made by the American Chemistry Council (ACC), the trade organization representing chemical manufacturers, in a letter this past spring to Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Specifically, the ACC was highly critical of the ROC, and stated that, “The NAS review of styrene and formaldehyde will necessitate examination” of the policies and practices for data evaluation, and the criteria for listing potential carcinogens in the ROC.⁴ Moreover, the ACC letter urged DHHS to “suspend” development of the 13th ROC until the NAS completes its review.

With budget riders like this one, the American Chemistry Council is working to delay and ultimately destroy the ROC and other government programs that provide the public with

unbiased, authoritative scientific assessments of the hazards of its member company's products. Honest, hard-working Americans and their families rely on Congress to protect their right to know about health risks from toxic chemicals in their homes, workplaces, schools, and consumer products.

We request that the House and Senate Appropriations Committees reject this House rider, - *or any other bill that Congress considers* - which would hinder the important work of the Report on Carcinogens program, and ultimately delay or deny the public important information about the potential for environmental chemical contaminants to cause cancer.

Respectfully,

Supporters (in alphabetical order):

Note: Affiliations for identification purposes only and do not constitute an endorsement on the part of the institutions of information contained in this letter.

Henry A. Anderson, MD
Adjunct Professor of Population Health
Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Madison, WI

Nicholas A. Ashford, PhD., JD
Professor of Technology and Policy
Director, MIT Technology and Law Program
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA

Eula Bingham, PhD
Former Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health
Professor Emeritus,
University Cincinnati College of Medicine,
Cincinnati, OH

Liz Borkowski
Research Associate
Department of Environmental & Occupational Health
George Washington University School of Public Health & Health Services
Washington, DC

Nachman Brautbar, MD
Clinical Professor Emeritus
University of Southern California - Keck School of Medicine
Los Angeles, CA

Barry Castleman, DSc

Environmental Consultant
Garrett Park, MD

Mark Catlin
Industrial Hygienist
Columbia, Maryland

Richard Clapp, DSc, MPH
Professor Emeritus
Boston University, School of Public Health
Boston, MA

Terrence J. Collins, PhD
Teresa Heinz Professor of Green Chemistry
Department of Chemistry
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA

Caroline Cox, MS
Research Director
Center for Environmental Health
Oakland CA

Carl F. Cranor, PhD
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Faculty Member, Environmental Toxicology
Department of Philosophy
University of California
Riverside, CA

Patricia M. DeMarco, PhD
Director, Rachel Carson Institute
School of Sustainability and the Environment
Chatham University
Pittsburgh, PA

John M. Dement, Ph.D., CIH
Professor
Division of Occupational & Environmental Medicine
Department of Community & Family Medicine
Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC

Richard Denison, PhD
Senior Scientist
Environmental Defense Fund
Washington, DC

Ronald D Dobbin, CAPT, USPHS, C.I.H.,(ret.)
Occupational Hygiene consultant
Research Triangle Park, NC

David S. Egilman MD, MPH
Clinical Professor
Department of Family Medicine
Brown University
Attleboro, Massachusetts

Adam M. Finkel, Sc.D., CIH
Voting Member, NTP Executive Committee, 1995-2000
Senior Fellow and Executive Director, Penn Program on Regulation, University of
Pennsylvania and
Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health, UMDNJ School of Public Health
Philadelphia, PA

Arthur L. Frank MD, PhD
Prof of Public Health,
Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA

John Froines, PhD
Department of Environmental Health Sciences,
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Los Angeles, CA

David Gee
Senior Adviser, Science, Policy, Emerging Issues, Integrated Environmental Assessment,
European Environment Agency,
Copenhagen, Denmark

William H. Goodson III, MD
Senior Clinical Research Scientist
California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute
San Francisco, CA

Robert Gould, MD
President
SF-Bay Area Chapter, Physicians for Social Responsibility
San Francisco, CA

Philippe Grandjean, MD, DMSc
Harvard School of Public Health
Boston, MA

Michael R. Harbut, MD, MPH, FCCP
Professor (Clinical), Internal Medicine
Director, Environmental Cancer Program
Karmanos Cancer Institute
Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan

Ruth M. Heifetz, MD, MPH
Senior Lecturer
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
UCSD School of Medicine
La Jolla, CA

Lori Hoepner, MPH
Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health
New York, NY

Peter Infante, DDS, DrPH
Former Director, Office of Standards Review, OSHA
Consultant
Falls Church, VA

Michael F. Jacobson, PhD
Executive Director
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Washington, DC

Sarah Janssen, MD, PhD, MPH
Senior Scientist
Natural Resources Defense Council
San Francisco, CA

Matthew Keifer MD, MPH
Dean Emanuel Endowed Chair and Director
National Farm Medicine Center
Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation
Marshfield, WI

David G. Kern, MD, MOH
Consultant in Occupational and Environmental Medicine
Formerly, Associate Professor Medicine, and
Director, Program in Occupational Medicine,
Brown University School of Medicine
Providence, RI

Katherine H. Kirkland, DrPH, MPH
Executive Director
Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics
Washington, DC

Joseph LaDou, MS, MD
Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
University of California School of Medicine
San Francisco, CA

Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc
Dean for Global Health
Ethel H. Wise Professor and Chairman
Department of Preventive Medicine
Professor of Pediatrics
Director, Children's Environmental Health Center
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York, NY

Richard A. Lemen, PhD, MSPH
Assistant Surgeon General (ret)
United States Public Health Service
Canton, GA

Kate Li, PhD
Staff Toxicologist
Reproductive and Cancer Hazard Assessment Branch
Cancer Toxicology and Epidemiology Section
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
California EPA
Sacramento, CA

Sandra A. Lovegrove
Former publisher (Abel Publication Services, Inc.) of
The International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health

Jennifer McPartland, PhD
Scientist
Environmental Defense Fund
Washington, DC

Gerald Markowitz, PhD
Distinguished Professor
John Jay College & Graduate Center
CUNY
New York, NY

Ron Melnick, PhD
Toxicologist (retired)
National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences
Research Triangle Park, NC

Nancy Nivison Menzel, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, COHN-S, CPH, CNE
Associate Professor
School of Nursing
University of Nevada,
Las Vegas, NV

Rachel Morello-Frosch, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor
Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management & School of Public Health
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA

Celeste Monforton, DrPH, MPH
Professorial Lecturer
Dept of Environmental & Occupational Health
School of Public Health & Health Services
George Washington University
Washington, DC

Karen B. Mulloy, DO, MSCH
Associate Professor
Colorado School of Public Health
Department of Environmental and Occupational Health
Aurora, CO

Peter Orris, MD, MPH
Professor and Chief of Service
Occupational and Environmental Medicine
University of Illinois Hospital and Health Science System
Chicago, IL

David Ozonoff, MD, MPH
Boston University School of Public Health
Boston, MA

Bindu Panikkar
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute
Northeastern University

Elise Pechter MAT, MPH, CIH
Certified Industrial Hygienist/Intervention Coordinator
Occupational Health Surveillance Program
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Boston, MA

Lewis Pepper, MD, MPH
Center for the Biology of Natural Systems
Queens College
City University of New York
New York, NY

Frederica P. Perera, DrPH
Professor of Public Health
Director, Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health
Department of Environmental Health Sciences
Mailman School of Public Health
Columbia University
New York, NY

Jerry Poje, PhD
Former Board Member of the U. S Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board
Virginia, VA

Julia Quint, Ph.D.
Research Scientist and Section Chief
Occupational Health Branch
California Department of Public Health (Retired)
Richmond, CA

Sharima Rasanayagam, Ph.D.
Director of Science
Breast Cancer Fund
San Francisco, CA

Kenneth D. Rosenman, MD
Professor of Medicine
Chief, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI

David Rosner, PhD
Ronald H. Lauterstein Professor of Sociomedical Science and History
Co-Director, Center for the History & Ethics of Public Health
Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health
New York, NY

Ruthann Rudel, MS
Director of Research
Silent Spring Institute
Newton, MA

Jennifer Sass, PhD
Senior Scientist, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and,
Professorial Lecturer, George Washington University
Washington, DC
****corresponding author***

Ted Schettler MD, MPH
Science and Environmental Health Network
Ames, IA

Megan Schwarzman, MD, MPH
Clinical Instructor, University of California, San Francisco, and
Research Scientist, University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA

Jeanne Sears, PhD, RN
Senior Research Scientist
Department of Health Services
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Joel Shufro, Ph.D., Executive Director
New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH)
New York, NY

Darius D. Sivin, PhD
Takoma Park, MD

Craig Slatin, Sc.D., MPH
Professor, Department of Community Health and Sustainability
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Editor, New Solutions, A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy
Lowell, MA

Allan H. Smith MD, PhD
Professor of Epidemiology and Director
Arsenic Health Effects Research Program
School of Public Health,
University of California
Berkeley, CA

Robert Sroufe, PhD
Palumbo Donahue School of Business
Duquesne University
Murrin Chair of Global Competitiveness
Beard Institute Director of Applied Sustainability
Marketing and Supply Chain Department
John F. Donahue Graduate School of Business
Pittsburgh, PA

Frederick W. Stoss, MS, MLS
Associate Editor and Contributor, *Information Resources in Toxicology*, 3rd. Ed.
University at Buffalo--SUNY
Buffalo, NY

Marianne Sullivan, DrPH
Assistant Professor of Public Health
William Patterson University
Wayne, NJ

Tim K. Takaro, MD, MPH, MS
Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, BC Canada

Andrea Kidd Taylor, DrPH, MSPH
Former Member, US Chemical Safety & Hazard Investigation Board
Lecturer
Morgan State University School of Community Health & Policy
Baltimore, MD

Daniel Thau Teitelbaum, MD
Adjunct Professor
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Colorado School of Mines
Golden, CO

Benedetto Terracini, MD
Professor of Cancer Epidemiology, Retired
University of Torino
Torino, Italy

Annie Thébaud-Mony, PhD
Director of Research Emeritus of the National Institute on Health and Medical Research
(INSERM)

GISCOF 93 (Research Group on Occupational Cancer)
Paris 13 University,
Bobigny, France

Sarah Vogel, MPH, PhD
Managing Director, Health
Environmental Defense Fund
Washington DC

David Wallinga, MD, MPA
Senior Advisor, Science, Food and Health
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Minneapolis, MN

Laura Welch, MD
Medical Director
Center for Construction Research and Training
Takoma Park, MD

R. Thomas Zoeller, PhD
Professor, Biology Department
Morrill Science Center
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA

Cc: Chairman Inouye, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Shelby,
Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks

¹ For the subcommittee draft text of the fiscal year 2013 Labor/Health and Human Services/Education Appropriations bill, see website here: <http://appropriations.house.gov/uploadedfiles/bills-112hr-sc-ap-fy13-laborhhsed.pdf>

² http://www7.nationalacademies.org/ocga/laws/PL112_74.asp

³ <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/?objectid=3756DE0C-FA7A-404B-3F72194C30ABD961>

⁴ Letter from Cal Dooley, President and CEO, American Chemistry Council, to Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Department of Health and Human Services. May 24, 2012. Avail here:
<http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/drosenberg/Dooley%20letter%20to%20Sebelius%20%5BMay%2024%202012%5D.pdf>