



MASSACHUSETTS BREAST CANCER COALITION

March 10, 2014

The Honorable John Shimkus
Chairman
Environment and the Economy Subcommittee
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2151 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Ranking Member
Environment and the Economy Subcommittee
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shimkus and Ranking Member Tonko,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC), we are writing to strongly oppose the Chemicals in Commerce Act (CICA) discussion draft that was released on February 27th. MBCC is a grassroots, advocacy organization dedicated to the prevention of environmental causes of breast cancer through community education, research advocacy, and changes to public policy. Together with our sister organization, Silent Spring Institute, we work to reduce exposures to chemicals linked with increased risk of breast cancer and other diseases.

Our organization and large base of supporters are deeply concerned about the CICA's ability to protect American citizens from toxic chemicals. Research from Silent Spring Institute and elsewhere has investigated and documented common chemical exposures both inside and outside the home. Additional studies have indicated a correlation between certain chemicals, or classes of chemicals, and various health consequences including infertility, birth defects, cancer, and more. For over two decades MBCC has been concerned with preventing breast cancer by eliminating these toxic exposures.

Despite being introduced to "reform" the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), we feel that the CICA primarily reflects the interests of the chemical industry and fails to adequately protect public health from common harmful exposures. The CICA does not resolve the TSCA's existing flaws and creates new obstacles to the regulation of harmful chemicals, the elimination of toxic exposures, and the improvement of public health in the United States. Some issues which are most concerning about the CICA are that it would:

- Allow known toxic chemicals like, lead, asbestos, formaldehyde, chromium, and cadmium to remain on the market and therefore continue to pose an exposure risk
- Provide limited health and safety information on chemicals
- Fail to ensure protections for the most vulnerable segments of our population such as pregnant women, the developing fetus, workers, firefighters and disproportionately affected communities
- Roll back existing state regulations and prevent new laws from taking place

MBCC is extremely disappointed in this latest attempt to reform our chemicals policy. The American public deserves to be protected from the health effects of harmful chemical exposures. We hope that future attempts at reform will allow immediate action to be taken on chemicals known to be harmful to health (like formaldehyde, lead, and others), allow access to basic health and safety information for businesses and consumers alike, maintain the right of states to continue passing their own legislation on toxic chemicals, and emphasize the protection of vulnerable populations.

We need legislative support and leadership for common sense limits on toxic chemicals.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Osimo
Executive Director, Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition

Margo Simon Golden
President, Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition

Cc: Rep. Fred Upton, Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee
Rep. Henry Waxman, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee