

**WOMEN**  
*for a Healthy*  
**ENVIRONMENT**

March 10, 2014

Representative John Shimkus, Chair &  
Representative Paul Tonko, Ranking Member  
House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Shimkus and Tonko:

I am writing on behalf of Women for a Healthy Environment. We are an organization based in Pittsburgh, PA that has a mission of educating and empowering women, and those who love them, to act as ambassadors about environmental risks, so they can make healthy choices for themselves and their families. We advocate for policy solutions that better protect our health and endorsed the Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families coalition in early 2010.

Too often we hear from community members who are tired of playing detective when they go shopping. They demand consumer products that have been tested for safety. Many of the chemicals found in consumer products have never been assessed for safety by any publically accountable agency. And many of these chemicals are increasingly linked to negative health effects including cancer, neuro-developmental disabilities, and reproductive harm. According to a recent report, "*Neurobehavioural effects of developmental toxicity*," by Dr. Philip Landrigan at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and Dr. Philippe Grandjean from Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, the number of chemicals known to be toxic to children's developing brains has doubled over the last seven years.

Clearly, the Toxic Substances Control Act is failing to protect public health, our communities and the environment. **Unfortunately, the Chemicals in Commerce Act (CICA) won't correct this broken regulatory system. We need your support and leadership for common sense limits on toxic chemicals.**

With your leadership, we need reform that 1) protects the most vulnerable populations, including pregnant women, developing children, and heavily impacted communities; 2) takes immediate action on known hazardous chemicals like formaldehyde, lead and others; 3) allows consumers and businesses access to basic health and safety information to make informed decisions; 4) allows states to continue to pass strong laws on toxic chemicals and 5) contains a health-based safety standard. The CICA would significantly roll back EPA's authority to restrict the use of existing toxic chemicals in products. This directly contradicts the recommendations of the National Academy of Science and the American Academy of Pediatrics for how chemical safety should be reviewed.

Our organization and the constituents that we serve want *real* reform in Washington that puts public health first and gets toxic chemicals out of our consumer products. We ask that you take a leadership position on this issue by rejecting the CICA and create legislation that will truly protect women and families.

Sincerely,



Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis  
Executive Director