

**2006 CD #20.4
ALA Midwinter Meeting
January 25, 2006**

Resolution on Protecting the Toxics Release Inventory Program

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) program has been in existence since the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) was enacted in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Pollution Prevention Act in 1990, requiring additional data on waste management and source reduction activities be reported under TRI; and

WHEREAS, the TRI is widely acknowledged to be among the most efficient and successful EPA programs, resulting in significant reductions in pollution; and

WHEREAS, the EPA has notified Congress of its intent to reduce the TRI reporting requirement for covered facilities from annual to biannually; and

WHEREAS, the EPA has initiated a rulemaking proposal to raise the reporting thresholds from 500 to 5000 pounds; and

WHEREAS, raising the reporting threshold would allow facilities to release ten times as many toxins into the environment without the reporting currently required; and

WHEREAS, raising the reporting threshold would cause almost 4,000 facilities to disappear entirely from the inventory, leaving no available information on their current toxic releases; and

WHEREAS, raising the reporting threshold would leave at least 922 communities nationwide and 10 percent of all postal zip code areas with no numerical data on local emissions; and

WHEREAS, public disclosure has proven to be a strong incentive for covered facilities to reduce their emissions of toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS, federal depository libraries nationwide were among the first locations where the public could locate and receive assistance in using Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data that is critical for protecting the health and safety of their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, for 130 years, the American Library Association (ALA) has promoted the ability of the public to access information important to their daily lives; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the American Library Association (ALA) oppose the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to reduce the frequency and threshold requirements for Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) reporting; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ALA urge Congress to reaffirm the original intent in the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) to make information, including the off-site consequence analysis information, publicly available on a timely basis; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ALA urge Congress to direct the EPA to maintain the current TRI reporting thresholds and frequency.