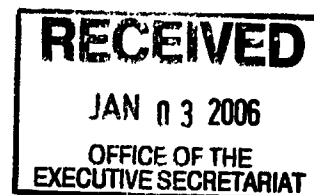


TRI-2005-0073



**KATY SORENSON**  
 COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
 District 8



01-25-06 P03:04 IN

Mr. Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator  
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (MC 1101A)  
 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
 Washington, DC 20460

Re: Toxics Release Inventory Burden Reduction Proposal (TRI-2005-0073)

December 12, 2005

Dear Administrator Johnson:

I am writing to express serious concerns with EPA's proposal to collect less information under the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). TRI data were extremely useful in determining possible water contamination after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and there are countless other ways these data are used every day. Florida officials have found the TRI program extremely helpful in setting environmental and public health policy. Accordingly, we are concerned that the current proposals will undermine these efforts, particularly at the community level.

The TRI grew out of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act in 1986 after the Union Carbide chemical release tragedy in Bhopal, India. Given our national security threats today, the TRI has grown in importance in providing local elected officials, first responders, and families with critical information on the location and amount of toxic chemicals in their community. The proposed rule is ill-conceived as it would weaken the availability of such information to me and local elected and administrative officials throughout the country. The proposed rule puts the interest of chemical facilities squarely in front of the safety of families in the community that I represent. Therefore, I respectfully request that the proposed roll-back of the TRI be withdrawn.

Sincerely,

Katy Sorenson  
 Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners

DEC 11 2005