

January 12, 2006

Office of Environmental Information (OEI) Docket
Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code: 28221T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Docket ID No. TRI-2005-0073

On behalf of the elected officials signed below, please accept these comments on Docket ID No. TRI-2005-0073, which contains the proposals to weaken the Toxic Release Inventory.

The Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) is a powerful tool for communities to find out about harmful contaminants that are released into the local environment, and is an important asset in efforts to protect our environment and quality of life. Local officials often find TRI useful during emergencies, such as during Hurricane Katrina. We cannot support any effort to weaken the reporting requirements under the TRI program.

We urge EPA to:

- Maintain the annual reporting requirement under TRI, and do not reduce the frequency of reports to once every other year. It already takes too long for the public to find out about toxic emissions.
- Maintain the current threshold for reporting toxic chemical releases. EPA's proposal to raise the threshold by a factor of 10 would eliminate reports for many chemicals and facilities.
- Maintain the current reporting requirements for persistent and bioaccumulative toxins. Because these hazards accumulate in our bodies, these are the most dangerous toxins and current thresholds should not be weakened.

We urge EPA to withdraw the proposals in Docket ID No. TRI-2005-0073. We need to know more, not less, about toxic chemicals to which our constituents are exposed. TRI is a successful program that should not be dismantled.

Sincerely,

US Rep. Chaka Fattah
District 2, Philadelphia County

Senator Lisa Boscola
District 18, Northampton County

US Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick
District 8, Bucks County

Sen. Wayne Fontana
District 42, Allegheny County

Senator Jim Ferlo
District 38, Allegheny County

Senator Vincent Fumo
District 1, Philadelphia County

Senator Stewart Greenleaf
District 12, Montgomery County

Senator Vincent Hughes
District 7, Philadelphia County

Senator Gerald LaValle
District 47, Beaver County

Senator Sean Logan
District 45, Allegheny County

Senator Anthony Williams
District 8, Philadelphia County

Senator Connie Williams
District 17, Montgomery County

Rep. Stephen E. Barrar
District 160, Delaware County

Rep. Thomas Blackwell IV
District 190, Philadelphia County

Rep. Mark Cohen
District 202, Philadelphia County

Rep. Lawrence Curry
District 154, Montgomery County

Rep. Frank Dermody
District 33, Allegheny County

Rep. H. William DeWeese
District 50, Greene County

Rep. Todd Eachus
District 116, Luzerne County

Rep. Dwight D. Evans
District 203, Philadelphia County

Rep. Dan Frankel
District 23, Allegheny County

Rep. Robert Freeman
District 136, Northampton County

Rep. Michael Gerber
District 148, Montgomery County

Rep. Marc Gergely
District 35, Allegheny County

Rep. Robert Godshall
District 53, Montgomery County

Rep. Richard Grucela
District 137, Northampton County

Rep. Babette Josephs
District 182, Philadelphia County

Rep. Thaddeus Kirkland
District 159, Delaware County

Rep. Nick Kotik
District 45, Allegheny County

Rep. Frank LaGrotta
District 10, Lawrence County

Rep. Daylin Leach
District 149, Montgomery County

Rep. David Levdansky
District 39, Allegheny County

Rep. John Maher
District 40, Allegheny County

Rep. Jennifer Mann
District 132, Lehigh County

Rep. Michael P. McGeehan
District 173, Philadelphia County

Rep. Charles McIlhinney
District 143, Bucks County

Rep. Scott Petri
District 178, Bucks County

Rep. Frank Pistella
District 21, Allegheny County

Rep. Ron Raymond
District 162, Delaware County

Rep. Harry Readshaw
District 36, Allegheny County

Rep. James R. Roebuck
District 188, Philadelphia County

Rep. T.J. Rooney
District 133, Northampton County

Rep. Carole Rubley
District 157, Chester County

Rep. Steve Samuelson
District 135, Northampton County

Rep. Curt Schroder
District 155, Chester County

Rep. Josh Shapiro
District 153, Montgomery County

Rep. Timothy Solobay
District 48, Washington County

Rep. David Steil
District 31, Bucks County

Rep. Michael Sturla
District 96, Lancaster County

Rep. Dan Surra
District 75, Elk County

Rep. Elinor Taylor
District 156, Chester County

Rep. W. Curtis Thomas
District 181, Philadelphia County

Rep. Michael Veon
District 14, Beaver County

Rep. Greg Vitali
District 166, Delaware County

Rep. Don Walko
District 20, Allegheny County

Rep. Jake Wheatley Jr.
District 19, Allegheny County

President Rich Fitzgerald
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