



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



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LINDA S. ADAMS
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

December 23, 2010

Assembly Member Mike Feuer
State Capitol Room 2013
Sacramento, 95814

Dear Assembly Member Feuer:

Thank you for your letter outlining your concerns about the Safer Consumer Product Alternative Regulations. I agree that the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has made great effort throughout the process to provide for public input and a transparent process. I applaud their hard work and determination in developing this first-of-its-kind green chemistry program.

Since I launched the Green Chemistry Initiative (GCI) at Cal/EPA in 2007, I am proud of the progress that has been made to implement the six GCI recommendations. The GCI has already spurred economic growth, transformed higher education research and workforce development programs, and motivated innovation in product design, manufacturing and marketing. The passage of your important legislation, Assembly Bill 1879 (Chapter 559, Statutes of 2008) is the cornerstone of our GCI's quest for safer products. The proposed regulations, done correctly, are integral to a chemically safer global economy and will continue California's record as an international environmental policy leader.

A wide range of stakeholders, including those from industry, environmental groups, scientists, and legislative leaders, have raised substantive and valid concerns about the most recent draft of the regulations. The world is looking to California for leadership in green chemistry, and it is our responsibility to develop the very best program possible. At my request, DTSC has agreed to take additional time to be responsive to the concerns raised and revisit the proposed regulations. I believe this extra time will allow us to create a workable program and address critical policy issues, such as third party verification and prioritization.

I have asked DTSC and its regulation development team to reconvene the Green Ribbon Science Panel early next year to further vet the programmatic issues that have been brought to our attention via the public comment process. This additional time and expertise will help ensure that the vision behind this component of the Green Chemistry Initiative and implementing statute AB 1879, is fully realized.

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California must continue its leadership and progress in green chemistry, and it is our responsibility as a leader in environmental policy innovation to develop a robust, successful program that will stimulate our economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Adams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda S. Adams
Secretary for Environmental Protection