

July 20, 2006

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Majority Leader

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader

House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Protect Public Health from Dangerous Global Pollutants – Stop H.R. 4591**

Dear [Congressional Representatives]:

The undersigned scientists, individuals and organizations – representing public health interests, environmental concerns, labor unions and Native Americans across the U.S. – urge you to oppose House Resolution 4591 (introduced by Rep. Paul Gillmor, R-Ohio), a cynical attempt to prevent controls on dangerous pollutants. Under the guise of implementing an important global environmental agreement, this bill would actually frustrate these efforts and preempt state and local government actions to protect public health and the environment from certain toxic chemicals and pesticides. This bill is wisely opposed by a dozen state attorneys general, the American Nurses Association, the United Steelworkers and more than 65 environmental and public health groups.

HR 4591, which passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee on July 12, is a deliberate effort to undermine the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) – an important international treaty to eliminate some of the world's most harmful chemicals. This global agreement has already been signed by 127 nations, including the U.S. But before the U.S. can implement the treaty, it must amend two federal laws: the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and the federal statute governing pesticides (FIFRA).

Unfortunately, for POPs chemicals that are added to the global list of banned substances, HR 4591 would create loopholes in TSCA allowing the chemical industry to keep producing and selling toxic chemicals. It would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use a cost-benefit standard rather than the treaty's health standard. The EPA would also have no clear timetable for action, and there would be no citizen participation process to challenge the EPA's failure to act.

Finally, HR 4591 is designed to block states from enacting stricter environmental and public health protections. States should retain the right to regulate toxic chemicals to safeguard public health and the environment. We urge you to reject HR 4591 and instead support HR 4800, an alternative bill by Rep. Hilda Solis (D-Calif.). HR 4800 places public health protection over business interests and wisely supports the rights of states to protect their citizens.

Sincerely,

**Organizations**

**Center for Biological Diversity**

Peter Galvin, Conservation Director  
Tucson, Arizona

**Alaska Community Action on Toxics**

Pamela K. Miller, Director  
Anchorage, Alaska

**Alliance for Sustainable Jobs & the Environment**

Bob Borck, Labor Co-Chair  
Tracy Katelman, Environmental Co-Chair  
Eureka, California

**American Academy of Environmental Medicine**

James F. Coy, M.D., President  
Wichita, Kansas

**American Bird Conservancy**

Michael Fry, Director, Pesticides & Birds  
Washington DC

**Breast Cancer Action**

Barbara A. Brenner, Executive Director  
San Francisco, California

**Breast Cancer Fund**

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San Francisco, California

**Environment and Human Health, Inc.**

Nancy Alderman, President  
North Haven, Connecticut

**Environmental Health Fund**

Judith Robinson, Director of Special Projects  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Ecology Center**

Tracey Easthope, Director, Environmental Health Project  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

**Families Against Cancer & Toxics**

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**For A Better Bronx**

Marian Feinberg  
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**Grassroots Environmental Education**

Patti Wood, Executive Director  
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**Greenpeace Toxics Campaign**

Rick Hind, Legislative Director  
Washington, DC

**Healthy Children Organizing Project**

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**Land Air Water- Environmental Law Society**

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**National Research Center for Women & Families**

Diana Zuckerman, Ph.D., President  
Washington, DC

**Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides**

Aimee Code, Water Quality Coordinator  
Eugene, Oregon

**Ohio Citizen Action**

Sandy Buchanan, Executive Director  
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**Oregon Toxics Alliance**

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director  
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**Physicians for Social Responsibility, SF-Bay Area Chapter**

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**Responsible Consumers of Our Monterey Peninsula**

David Dilworth, Co-Director

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**Science and Environmental Health Network**

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**Sciencecorps**

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**Seventh Generation For Indian Development, Inc.**

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