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GENERAL MANAGER

January 22, 2007

Dr. Robert Sawyer
California Air Resources Board
1101 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Dry Cleaning ATCM

Dear Dr. Sawyer:

Our members are very concerned about the use of the toxic chemical perchloroethylene (perc) used in dry cleaning. On behalf of our 20,000 public health care workers, I want to thank you and the Board for voting last May to phase out this carcinogen. Your action will help protect the health of cleaners, customers and our neighborhoods.

California has classified perc as a chemical known to cause cancer. It is estimated to have contaminated 1 in 10 public drinking wells in California. And, according to federal EPA data, it is one of the top 10 most toxic air contaminants in the state.

I am writing you with three requests that will strengthen your current perc phase-out proposal:

1. People should not be exposed to perchloroethylene. Instead of the 15-year phase-out in your current proposal, speed up this process to a 10-year phase-out.
2. One alternative to perc dry cleaning causes smog. This is why I am also asking you to phase-out new systems that use hydrocarbon solvents.
3. To provide immediate protection to those who need it most, require perc dry cleaners within 300 feet of residential zones, schools, medical facilities or other sensitive areas to be phased-out by 2010.

Please continue to protect Californians from the health hazards of perchloroethylene by adopting these measures. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Annelle Grajeda

Annelle Grajeda
General Manager

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