

## **Letter of Support to California Air Resources Board On Regulation of Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood**

June 20, 2006

Jim Aguila, Manager  
Stationary Source Division/Substance Evaluation Section  
Air Resources Board/CalEPA  
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Mr. Aguila:

We the undersigned represent a broad range of individuals, companies and non profit organizations concerned about the impact of building materials on human health. We are strongly in support of the efforts of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to regulate formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products.

The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has listed formaldehyde as a known carcinogen on the Proposition 65 list, and the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified formaldehyde as a known human carcinogen. In light of these classifications and bearing in mind formaldehyde's asthmagenic effects, there is sufficient reason to be very concerned about the estimated 400 tons emitted by composite wood products each year in California. With new cost effective technologies for producing composite wood products already on the market worldwide there is no reason not to act now to begin the phase out of the use of formaldehyde in board production.

Europe, China, Japan and others are all regulating this toxic chemical in composite wood products. Without regulations, California is becoming a dumping ground for cheap, toxic products from overseas that can't be sold elsewhere and that increasingly threaten our population – and especially our children - with bronchial injury and cancer. With regulation the market will respond with an even greater selection of healthier products.

We strongly support the CARB staff proposal to regulate formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products rapidly and bring them as close to zero as is technically possible by 2010.

Please continue to press for the most stringent regulations you can implement with a meaningful rapid timeline.

(signatories are listed on attached pages)

## **Organizational signatories:**

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