

Dear ARB Members:

As a Santa Barbara City Council Candidate, regretfully, my schedule does not allow me to appear before you at the Board hearing on 09/27/07.

Please, reject and question the staff's recommendations on their *2 inch sterile stainless steel chamber testing method*. In the best interest of the community, I urge you; listen carefully with an open mind and discerning ear. Please, do not vote to restrict or ban the use of safe, effective ozone generating equipment, until you have had the opportunity to hear the facts from *both sides*. Request a *balanced*, factual, accurate and valid staff report. Given the report, it is logical to assume that special interest groups have resorted to deceptive assertions only intended to influence your judgment.

The community is watching and we put our faith, trust and confidence that your decision will not be based on a single unilateral staff report. We trust your policy decisions are based on fact and not perception.

Ask your staff the tough questions:

Is ozone a component of smog or fresh air?
If I measure the ozone in the Brazilian rainforest what is the level?
Downtown LA?
Santa Monica?
LAX?

With millions of purifiers sold and thousands of satisfied consumers from all walks of life, has there been any recorded death directly attributed to the use of an indoor ozone purifier? Ozone is a self limiting gas, isn't the exhaust from an automobile and even the toxic isle at the grocery store much more dangerous to the average asthmatic than "fresh air" at it's freshest levels?

If you were listening to the stereo and it was too loud and hurting your ears what would you do?

If you were making toast and the setting was burning your toast, what would you do?

If you smelled natural gas in your home what would you do?

If you had smoke, pet odors, cooking odors, smoke, what would you do? Open the windows, right! If ozone levels get to high, consumers would know by the pungent smell associate with high levels and would have plenty of time to turn the purifier down before any harm would occur.

My interest and passion regarding this issue is based on 12 years of undeniable, successful personal use with a variety of air purifiers which use ozone. In addition, I have a strong scientific understanding of ozone and knowledge of the history of controversies, misconceptions, myths and realities which led up to political action as inappropriate as you are presented with today.

My personal understanding of the equipment in question, consumer behavior, and current environmental and political climate leaves no doubt that you are being duped! Finally, my position is strong because the free market is the greatest form of democracy available to the public. When government tries to regulate the free market there are often unintended consequences which cause more harm than the problems they were designed to create.

Individually, we must be responsible for our own actions. Keep in mind, your decision today may provide a precedent. Where does it stop? Electricity, water, natural gas, and fire are deadly when used improperly. Everyone uses at least 2 of these essentials and therefore, deadly (by definition) commodities daily. Even products like sugar, nicotine, alcohol and trans-fats, which are clearly proven to be detrimental to health, are not banned for purchase by any government agency to consumers in California at least 21 years of age.

As an Air Resource Board member I request that you agree to a group demonstration by a local certified expert on the use of this equipment. This demonstration could be performed in less than 20 minutes. Given the unquestionable success of the demonstration I hope you will accept the opportunity to evaluate these technologies personally before you make your decision based on written word. This may be the most basic opportunity needed to validate your decision. As an elected official, how could you reject an opportunity to make a decision that you could justify from personal experience?

Please consider the facts presented to you by skilled scientists who understand the "other side of ozone" and real consumers before acquiescing to staff pressure. It is your duty to ask the right questions and require that staff provide you with accurate information before you make a certain decision that is detrimental to consumers health (by removing effective options that will leave them susceptible to dangerous indoor air pollution), business owners, and our legislative reputation.

Voting for this unfair and biased regulation will only make casualties of people whose health are dependent on these types of technologies. Of these, there are tens of thousands and I speak for them.

Enthusiastically,
Michelle Giddens
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