

Bobby Smerling
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Bobby Smerling Brentwood Royal Cleaners Santa Monica....

Air Resource Board President, Board members and staff, I would like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak this morning. The last time I spoke in front of this board, CARB was attempting to get rid of Perc completely. Now we are looking for a faze out. For the last nine and half years now I have had the privilege of coming to Sacramento and working with the CARB, staff and Mie Fong, along with others in our industry from distributor's of our equipment to the inspector's that come into our plants and other fellow dry cleaners. I would like to start by stating that most of the dry cleaners here today do not really understand why we are here and will not agree with me today. I do not work for any equipment or Soap manufactures nor get pay for coming to Sacramento. This is strictly comes out of my and my families pocket and the love and devotion I have for this industry.

I am a third generation dry cleaner with my grand father starting in America in the laundry industry back in the mid 50's from having to leave 15 textile factories which he ran in CHEZ up until 1948. My parents and I bought one the laundry accounts back in 1985. I am a graduate from the International Fabricare Institute and acknowledged as One OF AMERICANS BEST DRY CLEANER from the Fashion design industry institute in SCHLOSS HOHENSTEIN Germany, Past president of the Grater Los Angeles Dry Cleaners (GLADCA) a past board member of California Cleaners Association (CCA), a past board member of Trade Advisory Committee for the Penitentiary of the State of California and a past board member of the American Lung Association Los Angeles Chapter.

I had the occasions to visit a water treatment plant by invitation by the city of Santa Monica water division, as most of us here know the real reason why we are here today, it is the poor operations of most of the dry cleaners that are working in our industry in California by illegally discarding perc and allowing perc to come into contact of the ground or air by discarding the sludge of perc into our sewer system a little at a time, that the water treatment plants could not keep up with. While I had my perc plant we never had any problem of contamination to the ground or air.

We were always on the cutting edge of new technology in our industry when we bought our plant. In 1985 we installed the first or second Lundus closed loop machine in California, with one thing that no one else had done before we designed and added the first contamination pan under our machine in Southern California It was twice as big as today's contamination pans, (Over Kill) again setting the bar for dry cleaners, I knew the possibility of ground and air contamination that could come up in the future.

When I was president of the GRATER LOS ANGELES DRY CLEANER ASSOCIATION we had started a working relationship with the California Air Resource Board putting together a training program with Kenny Slatten, Bob Blackburn and myself and others in the Education Committee of the California Cleaners Association. We knew that there where dry cleaners that are doing substandard operation and this was a way for us to strive and attempt to teach the at risk operators, and hopefully educate them in our industry. Unfortunately a percentage of the people who have taken the CARB Training Course have a economic influence on our industry and sometimes verbal communication difficulty. not understanding what we must achieve to give a better image of the Dry Cleaning industry to the communities which we live in. I am a minority in this industry like many others who are here today who also care what is going on in our industry.

I have been invited to sit and observe many CARB training course over the years and have asked others to observe as well while taking the course, to see what improvements we can add to the course. I just renewed my own CARB ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING COURSE last April. I did not have to because the use of CO2 exemption in our industry. At this education course the question is still coming up from owner and operators questioning the Instructor. I would assure you that these certify CARB Instructors really have a hard job for little money that they make. The questions they have been getting from their students, I assure this board they are respectful and understanding to the students they are teaching.

Some Cleaners taking these exams are still not understanding the paperwork and the correct ways adhere with the CARB standards. some of the question they ask are; how many drops of perc does it take to become in violation, what happens when I have a leak do I have to notified anyone about the leak and how soon, do I have to tag the leak and how is it to be tagged, since the inspector has one of those things that beeping, I don't need to have one working right, or how often do I need to change the gasket around the door and the lint trap, if I squeeze the perc from the lint can I throw it in the trash. How often should I change my filters or where are the filters or the best one I have herd if I let my filters drain over night and then place them out side so the sun dried out the perc, can I throw them in the trash. Some of these answers are from cleaner and operators taking the exam at least For the second or the third time what to do, we need to improve what we are doing, by education to the cleaners and sit down and reviewing this course at lease once a year with the instructors and updating them for the reason that changing technology in our industry is a consent.

Since 1948 Royal Cleaners had a lease in Santa Monica/Brentwood and three and half years ago we lost it because of new ownership of the building we had to look for a new location, but with a different approach, we knew that the industry was changing and trying to get away from the use of perc and other petroleum solvents. Our new landlord did not allow us to use perc or any other petroleum products so we look into other technology. Eighteen years early I had the privilege and was ask by the Howard Hugh's project HUBBLE to come to El Segundo, knowing my back round in highdollicks and electrical engineering and the dry cleaning field they showed me what they were working on, the first CO2 cleaning unit they used it for cleaning the Hubble Lens it was as big as the atrium, we knew this size would not work in our industry.

after years working and development SailStar USA one of many company building CO2 units came up with their version of a CO2 cleaning machine it was the right size for a mom and pop dry cleaner shop six foot by six foot, once we installed it in our new plant, it did not work the way I needed it to.

I started from scratch working with SailStar to make it work, after one year of changes and getting it to run correctly we had to find a soap manufacture to help, no one in the United States had the right soap formula, it would come from European Market and we found two, knowing they were ahead of us environmentally in the states. We tried the different companies and we came up with one that really worked for us it was Eco friendly. including cost per garment to clean in addition to a profit. The CO2 from SailStar cost us \$150,000.00 for witch we received two grants one from the South Coast Air Quality District Management and one from CARB the CO2 unit, is now paid off. We were able to take care of our loan in less than two and a half years to date we have cleaned over _____ pound of garment with an average cost per load of \$60.00 which if you look at the cost per load it about \$2.00 to \$3.00 per garment I am now presently paying .08 cents per pound of CO2 and expelling 25 pounds per load which includes a additional of \$2.00 at the end of each load cleaned. Only 15 garments that had been ruined in the last 3 and a half years because of wrong care label information and that we could have avoided.

Cost for repairs has only been \$2,500.00 a year of most of that was for travel from east coast to west coast three to four times a year. Now the present cost is half because we are running better and the improvement that I have made on behalf for SailStar CO2 they only have to come out to our plant once a year per my request to make sure that we are calibrated right. Soon that expense won't be required.

only draw back that I have seen so far is we have been running test on our sludge we have found perc, Hydrocarbon, green earth, and other toxic substance's which we have no control of since my clients do travels around the world. Ma Fong has a report from last year on the test we ran with Safety Clean the only thing we put into our CO2 unit is a citrus base soap. I am not here to day to nock perc but hopefully educate the board about the other alternatives out there. Yes perc usage is coming down but why... landlords are not letting dry cleaners using perc. The landlords are misinform the landlord's and lead them to believe that Hydrocarbon is Environmentally safe. Which is not so. The landlords not knowing that there is still petroleum by products that they are still letting into there buildings. This is an unarguable fact.

Today the dry cleaner is replacing perc with hydrocarbon and those substandard operators now starting to merge into hydrocarbon and other cleaning solvents and we in the future looking at the possibly of the same problem as perc, depositing the slug in the same manner or even worse.

We all here today must do the right job, myself, included the staff with CARB we need to worked harder trying to make California a better place for ~~everybody~~ ~~are in reach~~ for the good cleaners to come out ahead and to succeeded in their business. Yes not in two and half years to pay a loan back like we did At Royal Cleaners but with-in ten to twelve years which should be the industries norm.

And then you ask how long are the CO2 units lasting know one knows, except the CO2 unit that cleans the Hubble Leans is used everyday this unit is over 40 years old and still working with no problems as they do take care of maintains there equipment.

The average dry cleaning machine would last 12 to 15 years depending on the maintains, We don't want the possibility of these Hydrocarbon units coming in danger when bought the possibility of these Hydrocarbon units catching on fire internally or exploding and putting employees and the public in harms way, if not taken care of appropriately and the potential of contamination in our sky's and waterways, remembering that Hydrocarbon is an ozone depleting carcinogen which I really don't want to get into. Yes they have controls on these Hydrocarbon unit but there is no way to capture the Hydrocarbon that is emitted to the air, and the bad operator are still in our industry untrained, and most of them will not take the time to learn there craft.

Also I wish to ask the board at this time for some word 3 to 5 working days offered by the salesperson of these Hydrocarbon units at addition to the price if needed, then an exam by a state certified instructors showing that they have an understanding of operating and taking care of these unit. And they should not be able to operate unless one of these conditions is met. This should be met by all new technology that being introduce to our industry. That the salesperson just does not just drop off and install and type of cleaning unit and let the owner and operator have that learn on their own.

And last I wish to so ask the Board to look into the amounts given for grant money a wet cleaning machine goes for about \$ 20,000.00 and a CO2 goes for \$150,000.00 if we could increase the monies for the CO2 to double it would make more dry cleaners interested in CO2 Cleaning method.

12 Thank you very much Ms. President and board.

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