

April 23, 2012

To the Honorable Members of the Subcommittee on Science, Space & Technology
Subcommittee on Investigations and Subcommittee on Oversight
House Small Business Subcommittee on Healthcare and Technology
The United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Regarding the April 25th Hearing: How the Report on Carcinogens Uses Science to Meet its
Statutory Obligations and its' Impact on Small Business Jobs

Honorable Representatives,

We are physicians and environmental scientists who write to you about our concern for the continuity of the Report on Carcinogens of the National Toxicology Program. We have learned, to our dismay that your committee is considering limiting or eliminating funding for the ROC because of concerns by industry stakeholders that the ROC places special burdens on them. We believe that limitations placed on the work of the NIEHS and of the National Toxicology Program, that would diminish the scientific integrity and authority of the Report on Carcinogens would be deeply damaging to the medical and scientific community. We also believe that alterations in the authority of the ROC would seriously damage the image of the United States in the eyes of the international scientific community.

The Report on Carcinogens, now in its 12th iteration, forms the only authoritative peer reviewed American view of occupational and environmental carcinogens. It has become a central resource for all of us who work with patients, problems, and consulting issues in occupational and environmental toxicology. It is also regarded as authoritative in scientific work internationally and is widely quoted and relied upon for the public health aspects of occupational and environmental carcinogens. Much of the world's regulatory policy for the prevention of disease and environmental degradation by carcinogens utilizes and refers to the Report on Carcinogens. It is considered a reliable, unbiased and scientifically valid compilation of knowledge about carcinogenic substances. Many physicians, scientists and science based businesses rely upon the Report for up to date, peer reviewed information on the state of the art in carcinogen research and management.

We believe that no reduction should be made to the preparation, publication, and dissemination of the Report on Carcinogens of the National Toxicology Program. This critical function and publication of the National Institute of Environmental Sciences is a major scientific resource provided to the United States medical and scientific community and to the world scientific and medical community. It is vital that the program be continued and if possible, strengthened. This irreplaceable information resource, upon which preventive medical decisions are made every day, cannot be reduced in scope without serious damage to the health and welfare of the people of the United States and of the world.

We hope you will continue support for this program.

Respectfully submitted by the following physicians and medical scientists,

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