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


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,

Daniel Thau Teitelbaum, M.D.
Adjunct Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health
Colorado School of Public Health
University of Colorado at Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus
Aurora, Colorado
Adjunct Professor of Environmental Sciences, The Colorado School of Mines
Golden, Colorado

Michael R. Harbut, MD, MPH, FCCP
Director, Environmental Cancer Program, Karmanos Cancer Institute
Professor, Internal Medicine, Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan

John M. Dement, PhD, CIH
Professor
Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
Department of Community and Family Medicine, Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC 27705

Ellen Silbergeld, PhD
Professor,
Joint appointments: Epidemiology and Environmental Health Sciences
The Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD

John Bailar, MD
Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago
Scholar in Residence, National Academy of Sciences
Washington, D.C.

Kathleen M. Burns, Ph.D.
Director
Sciencecorps
Lexington, MA

Ronald Melnick, Ph.D.
Ron Melnick, LLC
NIEHS Scientific Research (retired)
Chapel Hill, NC

David H. Wegman, MD, MSc
Professor Emeritus
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Lowell, Massachusetts
Megan Schwarzman, MD MPH
University of California, Berkeley
School of Public Health
University Of California, San Francisco
Department of Family & Community Medicine
San Francisco, California

Michael F. Jacobson, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Washington, DC

Peter F. Infante, Dr.P.H., F.A.C.E.
Peter F. Infante Consulting, LLC
200 S. Oak St.
Falls Church, VA 22046

Jennifer Sass, PhD
Senior Scientist, Natural Resources Defense Council, (NRDC) and.
Professorial Lecturer, George Washington University
Washington, D.C.

David S. Egilman, MD, MPH
Clinical Associate Professor
Department of Family Medicine
Brown University
Attleboro, MA

Ted Schettler MD, MPH
Science Director
Science and Environmental Health Network
Ames, IA

Darius D. Sivin, PhD
Public Health Scientist
Takoma Park, MD

Devra Davis, Ph.D.
President
EHTRUST

Henry A. Anderson, MD
Adjunct Professor
Department of Population Health
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Madison, WI 53703