

TESTIMONY GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 Good Morning. My name is Joyce Acebo Raguskus, Chair of Diesel Cleanup, Environmental Concerns Coalition, & Coalition for Safe & Healthy CT/ Clean Water Action and advocate for many other environment coalitions.

I am here before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, February 23, 2011 giving Testimony in support of:

SB 210 An ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF BISPHENOL-A IN THERMAL RECEIPT PAPER AND INCREASING THE DUTIES OF THE CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE

I have attached the recent editorial article from this weeks newspaper SNOW MELTS TOXIC CHEMICALS DON'T, that I wrote in support of SB210, a key toxic chemical issue, bisphenol A, to be reviewed as top toxic priority and placed in the competent hands of our new Chemical Innovations Institute, securing a strong bridge to the businesses and the bodies of concerned citizens.

I hope you take a moment to read the article and share with your constituents.

Looking back when I was an active single parent for a little boy, in 1986, I never knew what this yet another TIP-OF THE TOXIC ICEBERG CHEMICAL WAS...BIS PHENOL- A...AND WAS DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER when my boy was just 12. I am grateful and humble to be here and be able to support cleaning up of such toxins that almost everyplace we look, leaks and lurks.. something that needs are hand and not to transfer such chemicals nor have to wear surgical gloves every place we go, but to get toxins out of our reach and those of our loved ones including for four legged ones.

I spent all afternoon yesterday at St. Raphael's hospital listening to the ping of an MRI and thought if I can help to prevent another from having to following up with their survival and lesson exposure to toxins and lend support for all the important work that you, our legislators and our environment committees is faced with, I am grateful to do so. Thank you for all that you do.

Joyce Acebo-Raguskus  
174 Eastern Parkway  
Milford, Connecticut 06460



# The snow will melt away but all the toxic chemicals don't

By Joyce Aceto - Ragusians

Like snow toxic chemicals has a blanket and mask and can come in the shape of fun. Toxic toys, (mercury, lead, cadmium), makeup on our faces, and shampoos to keep us looking shiny, food containers/cans are sprayed with the toxin (bisphenol A, an endocrine disruptor, is also discovered on most store/grocery receipts and when transferred on our dollar bills, like germs, (use plastic gloves if you are a cashier, and wash hands so as not to further transfer bisphenol-A, BPA).

State Sen. Ed Meyer introduced SB210 Child Safe Products with

## Milford-Orange Bulletin

### Journal Register

John Slater, General Manager  
CHAD ODEFFY, Managing Editor  
BRIDGET ALBERT, Editor

#### BUSINESS OFFICES

40 Sargent Drive  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203-752-2711 • Fax: 203-789-5309  
Classified: (800) 922-7066

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reference to further BPA protection. Yes, we serve it on our tables to our families via exposure. Toxins are often hidden in furniture, carpets and the couch cushions we sit on and cozy up on especially on these winter days ... and on our yards that have been sprayed with horrific poisons, when the grasses were green and further run off into our drains to poison further the life in our nearby waters, down the drain.

### Guest Column

We have plowed our way to banning pesticides on school grounds, k-8, and day cares but our backyards are waiting healthy organic alternatives, yes alternatives! Remember those Yellow flags notifying children and animals to stay away! Birds and fish don't have as much of a chance. Poisonous pesticides in the name of grooming are the poison of lawn care? Now is the time to do your research into healthy alternatives to change unhealthy habits.

Sen. Meyer has introduced SB244 to allow municipalities to ban and regulate use of lawn care pesticides in our towns.

Toxic chemicals we breathe in, (such as smoke from outdoor furnaces adding serious health hazards, Senate Bill 860, N. Alderman), and we taste, and swallow into our only bodies, can, be altered. Some fall and are sprayed in the winds, into nooks and crannies of incredible spaces, melts and seeps falling into places where darkness grows ... making a menace of living... Some mount up in our bodies, our children's bodies with their new lungs, brains, endocrine systems, complex neurological transmitters/ vulnerable minds and feed obesity.

We dig out, clean out only from what we see or are informed of. The thaw will come and damage will be exposed and we and children will be visiting hospitals with lung problems, too many cancer clusters, breast cancers, manifesting in early twenties, developmental problems, autism, and let us not forget, dementia. We will be faced with a new season of new exposure to making more decisions and choices, for ourselves and our neighbors, and using wisdom about prevention and exposure to toxic chemicals. Chemicals that

have come to be a meal and all of us are walking around with belly full. More and more toxic chemicals which need to be plowed away and out of our reach. The exposure to our life and children to toxic pesticides, we 'continue' to insist on using on our lawn when there are wonderful organic alternatives, soaked the soil at earth beneath the many blankets of snow.

Now is the time to think, make better, choices for the well being of our living...ie, that would be you, and me and our children at theirs.

We have people working hard on bringing prevention and in poisons to our tables and back yards. Connecticut people or representatives, wants you to use them, to help them clean up or choices, provide better alternative to support bans on toxic chemicals that we ingest and swallow and breathe in, to damage infants and adults, causing disease. There are no boundaries. Connecticut leads with passing the baby bottle bill, the strongest Bisphenol A ban in our United States.

We did it with you, and because of you. University of Connecticut's Chemical Innovations Institute newly established at key, in working together with Connecticut businesses to bring safe products to our homes and bodies.

"The only way to reduce toxic contamination is to require testing of products before they come in the commerce," states UC Riversix professor Carl Cranor and author of "Legally Poisoned."

There's much to be shoveled and floods of chemicals to be removed from our environment venues and veins. We will begin dig ourselves out again and again of the toxic chemical exposure.

ASK QUESTIONS/MAKE HEALTHIER CHOICES, and get in touch with our Environment Committee. Chairman Richard Roy Richard.Roy@cga.ct.gov, and our Co-Chair, Senator Meyer, 1-80-842-8267- 1426, The Coalition for Safe & Healthy CT/Clean Water Action, seaswood@cleanwater.org, and Environment and Human Health Inc., 1191 Ridge Road, North Haven, CT 06473.

Joyce Aceto-Ragusians is chairwoman of the Diesel Clean Environmental Concerns Coalition in Milford.

## Letters to the Editor

### Proposed budget too high

To the Editor,

A Letter to the Mayor and Board of Alderman of the City of Milford:

I apologize for not making it to the meeting on Monday night to voice my opinion concerning the proposed budget. Unfortunately, I was busy trying to reduce my own personal budget by about \$200 a year. It doesn't sound like much but when you pay over \$7,000 a year in real estate taxes every little bit helps.

Had I been at the meeting, I would have asked only one question concerning the budget: "are you out of your minds?" The Federal Government is hemorrhaging deficits beyond belief, the State is short in excess of \$3 billion (that's Billion) and you clowns in Milford City Hall want to spend 7 percent more money on the city side of the budget and 4 percent more (oh! sorry 3.84

need to worry about saving money, we're in the black." At the risk of repeating myself "Are you out of your (expensive delete minds?" The only reason we are in the black is because our fiscally irresponsible politicians keep raising our taxes. And, if you think the State is going to pony up one nickel for a city that is "in the black," then I want some of what ever it is that you guys are smoking.

Paul V Jost  
Milfo

### Thank you mail carriers

To the Editor,

I am writing to express thanks to my mail carrier. This has been a difficult winter for residents throughout the state. While at the Amity Post Office to pick up packages, I inquired as to why I did not receive mail for two days. I was politely informed