



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION  
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

June 29, 2009

Therese Murray, Senate President  
State House Room 330  
Boston, MA 02133  
Fax (617) 722-1500

Robert DeLeo, Speaker of the House  
State House Room 356  
Boston, MA 02133  
Fax 617-722-2008

Dear Therese Murray and Robert DeLeo,

**Survival of the University of Massachusetts's Toxic Use Reduction Institute**

The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) is one of this country's first environmental law and policy advocacy groups working in Canada since 1970. One of the enduring areas of focus of our law and policy program has been toxic use reduction. We are writing to you today to outline to you just how essential Massachusetts's precedent-setting laws and the Toxic Use Reduction Institute (TURI) of the University of Massachusetts at Lowell have been. Their leadership has led the way in global and Canadian efforts to reduce exposures to harmful substances. We are urging your government to strongly support the TURI by ensuring that a direct line designating resources for the TURI be continued in your current budget.

In June of this year the Ontario Legislature passed the Province's Toxic Reduction Act. The Province of Ontario invited the founding Director of TURI, Ken Geiser to be on its Expert Scientific Panel which helped shape that legislative bill. Our organization wrote a model Toxic Use Reduction and Safer Substitution Act in large part drawing on Massachusetts's laws to encourage this reform. As well this year the City of Toronto will be implementing their new Environmental Disclosure and Innovation By-law that has drawn extensively from your State's leadership and toxic reduction practices implemented by TURI. These two laws would not have been possible without the pioneering and proven successes in your State.

CELA has also drawn from various experts at the Lowell Centre on similar pollution prevention and right to know efforts at the federal levels to gain a broader understanding of the use of the US Toxic Release Inventory to enhance parallel reporting systems in Canada.

At the request of a work group of the International Joint Commission, our organization recently co-authored a paper with Joe Tickner from the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, an adjunct of TURI on the emerging chemicals of concern in the Great Lakes. The International Joint Commission oversees international cooperation for this imperiled

ecosystem. Once this paper is released in the next several months, it will be useful to address the same new chemical threats in other freshwater systems.

Our research staff have written numerous documents and reports for chronic disease agencies focused on cancer and heart and stroke health endpoints that cite TURI and your state of Massachusetts as global leaders in best practices in toxic use reduction. TURI has identified important policy links that others have built on. For example, toxic reduction is increasingly being recognized by health groups such as the Canadian Cancer Society as linked to chronic disease prevention.

In Canada we have benefited greatly from the leadership and guidance from TURI. We strongly recommend that at this crucial time for US chemical management that TURI should continue to serve as a model for other states now that US President Obama will be considering how to limit preventable diseases and their associated costs by reducing exposures to toxic substances. The successful programs in your state can inform these federal initiatives.

We urge you to do all you can to ensure that your State leadership continues through direct funding of this irreplaceable Institute.

Yours truly,  
Canadian Environmental Law Association



Theresa McClenaghan  
Executive Director



Policy Analyst

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