
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO KEEP THE TOXICS RELEASE INVENTORY PROGRAM INTACT BY REJECTING THE PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE PROGRAM'S REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

1 WHEREAS, the Toxics Release Inventory program, established
2 under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of
3 1986 and expanded by the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, was
4 enacted in response to the toxic gas leak by a Union Carbide
5 Corporation plant in Bhopal, India, that injured from one
6 hundred fifty thousand to six hundred thousand people and killed
7 at least fifteen thousand people; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the Toxics Release Inventory is a publicly
10 available United States Environmental Protection Agency database
11 that contains information on toxic chemical releases and other
12 waste management activities reported annually by certain covered
13 industry groups as well as federal facilities; and

14
15 WHEREAS, according to data from the United States
16 Environmental Protection Agency, the simple act of reporting and
17 disclosing toxic releases has prompted corporations to cut toxic
18 pollution by nearly fifty per cent; and

19
20 WHEREAS, despite the success of the Toxics Release
21 Inventory, the United States Environmental Agency has proposed a
22 significant roll back of the program's reporting requirements to
23 reduce the paperwork burden on corporations, including:

- 24
25 (1) Requiring biennial reporting rather than annual
26 reporting for all facilities;
27
28 (2) Changing the reporting threshold from five hundred
29 pounds to five thousand pounds, thereby allowing
30 companies to release up to ten times more pollution
31 than previously allowed before requiring them to



1 report on how much pollution was produced and where it
2 went; and
3

- 4 (3) Allowing facilities to withhold information on the
5 low-level production of persistent bioaccumulative
6 toxins, including lead and mercury, which are
7 dangerous even in small quantities because of their
8 toxicity and because they persist in the environment
9 and accumulate in people's bodies; and
10

11 WHEREAS, according to United States Senator James Jeffords,
12 ranking member of the Environmental Committee of the United
13 States Senate, the foregoing proposals "would deny communities
14 up-to-date information about local toxic releases, reduce
15 incentives to minimize the generation of toxic waste, and
16 undermine the ability of public health agencies and researchers
17 to identify important trends"; and
18

19 WHEREAS, an up-to-date Toxics Release Inventory is needed
20 to pinpoint specific facilities that are releasing hazardous
21 pollutants so that pollution prevention and controls can be
22 implemented; and
23

24 WHEREAS, first responders, including those working in the
25 aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, need current Toxics
26 Release Inventory data to identify factories and industrial
27 sites where toxic chemical releases may be possible; and
28

29 WHEREAS, a bipartisan group of twelve state attorneys
30 general have joined in opposition to the foregoing proposals,
31 arguing that it would impede governments, first responders, and
32 citizens from protecting people from the harm caused by toxic
33 chemicals; now, therefore,
34

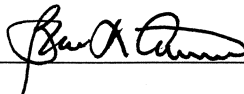
35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
37 of 2006, that the President of the United States, the United
38 States Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States
39 Congress are urged to keep the Toxics Release Inventory program
40 intact by rejecting the proposals to reduce its reporting
41 requirements; and
42

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
44 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,



1 the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection
2 Agency, and the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

3
4
5

OFFERED BY: 
MAR 15 2006

