

October 14, 2010

Albany - EO4 Interagency Subcommittee Meeting on Green Procurement

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning on behalf of the EO4 Advisory Council. Today I am speaking for myself and several other members of the council who could not be here today. Last night before I left my office I got a call from one member of the council, Scot Case, Vice President of TerraChoice Environmental Marketing, who is currently presenting at the *International Green Technology and Purchasing Conference* in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. He joins us in support of your proposed recommendation to consider certain chemicals in green purchasing and will be citing some of New York State's other green initiatives in his presentation on North American Strategies.

The chemicals that your committee has identified for consideration in the development of green specifications have been identified and thoroughly researched by multiple federal agencies and determined to be detrimental to either or both human health and the environment. We applaud your committee for making this effort, joining other states and cities across the country (notably Maine, Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco, New Jersey and Washington state) who have already enacted similar initiatives and for encouraging others to follow. You will also most certainly be playing a role in advancing green technology industries and creating new markets as well as new jobs.

During our deliberations on this issue, a working group of EO 4 Advisory Council members consulted with leading experts in the emerging field of green purchasing, and worked diligently to identify chemicals that are found in products commonly purchased by the state agencies. A working document was created with contextual information that may be of value to the Subcommittee when undertaking the task of writing specifications. Of course, all the chemicals in this document are included on one or more of the federal lists referenced in your proposed recommendation. We would appreciate the Committee's consideration of the inclusion of this document in your proposed policy.

As an organization that prioritizes the protection of the public's health, especially our children, once again I support you in your decision to carefully consider those chemicals which present the greatest risk to people and the environment. Thank you.

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