



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.

Over the last 15 years 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 and to promote mandatory pollution prevention planning in the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*.

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

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

Copies to:

Dr. Jack Wilson
President, University of Massachusetts
333 South Street, Suite 400
Shrewsbury, MA 01545-4169
Phone: 774-455-7100
Fax: 617-287-7167 or 774-455-7102

Marty Meehan
Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Lowell
Allen House, South
Two Solomont Way
Lowell, MA 01854
Phone: 978-934-2201
Fax: 978-934-3000

Pam Eliason
pam@turi.org
fax 978-934-3050