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Alaska State Legislature

Senate

During Session:
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SENATE DISTRICT F

September 16, 2011

Dr. Scott Masten, PhD
Director, Office of Nomination and Selection
National Toxicology Program
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233, MD K2-02
530 Davis Drive, Room 2140
Research Triangle Park, NC, USA 27709

09-28-11P03:44 RCVD

Dear Dr. Masten,

I am writing to encourage you to accept the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's (ADEC's) nomination to fund and conduct additional studies on sulfolane that will advance the understanding of the potential health impacts from ingesting this chemical. I represent people in a senate district that has a sizable sulfolane plume and the unknowns make it difficult to determine what the short-term and long-term effects are on my constituents.

As background, in October 2009 sulfolane was detected in the groundwater coming from the Flint Hills Resources North Pole Refinery and in off-site drinking water wells. This was considered an immediate public health concern and alternative water supplies are being provided. However, there are nearly 250 wells that have been impacted by sulfolane, including the municipal wells, and a nearly six-square-mile plume of contamination. Families may have been exposed to the chemical for numerous years so there is significant fear about the potential health effects. Sulfolane has also been detected in produce sampled from local gardens.

Additional toxicity research will not only help inform the impacted residents and assist with the long-term contaminant solutions in Alaska, but also provide a better basis for regulation of the chemical across the country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

Senator John Coghill

cc: Marit Carlson-Van Dort, Legislative Liaison, ADEC

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