MEDIA ADVISORY

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Photo opportunity: assortment of toxic products

Groups Call New Green Chemistry Proposal Schwarzenegger’s Toxic Legacy

Sierra Club, CHANGE Coalition and Other Groups Say Californians’ Health, Environment Betrayed by State’s Last Minute Turn-Around

WHAT:  Press conference to oppose Green Chemistry “Safer Consumer Product Alternatives”

WHERE: California State Capitol, Sacramento. Room 125.

WHEN:  Thursday, December 2, 2010. 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

WHO:  Californians for a Healthy and Green Economy (CHANGE), joined by Sierra Club California, CA Product Stewardship Council, Clean Water Action, Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, Environmental Working Group, Worksafe, Center for Environmental Health, Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles, Plastic Pollution Coalition, Coalition for Clean Air, and more.

WHY: Californians from across the state are taking a stand against the newly released Green Chemistry safer product regulation that has been gutted in a last-minute attempt to sneak through industry-backed rules that overlook hazards to health and the environment. The revised regulation is a betrayal of the Green Chemistry promise and ignores two years of public input while caving to backroom industry lobbying.

Over the past two years, dozens of public interest groups, including the statewide coalition CHANGE (Californians for a Healthy and Green Economy) have faithfully participated in submitting comments on the regulation intended to address the problem of harmful chemicals and products in our daily lives.

Without notifying the public, or even members of their own scientific advisory committee, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) drastically gutted its proposed Green Chemistry regulations and set it out for an illegal 15-day comment period right before Thanksgiving week. This move is a mockery of the public participation process and represents a cave-in to chemical industry pressure. The revised regulation would fail to remove toxic products from stores, creates paralysis by analysis, and encourages regrettable chemical and product substitutions.

Californians deserve a chemical policy framework that protects them by removing the most pervasive and hazardous chemicals from the market, promoting the use of safer alternatives, and protecting the health of workers and those most at risk.

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CHANGE is a broad-based coalition of more than thirty environmental and environmental justice groups, health organizations, labor advocates, community based groups, parent organizations, and others working to change chemical policies for the protection of workers, children, public health, the environment, and the economy.