

## Alert: Support CA Action on Formaldehyde

*Opportunity for quick positive action to help get cancer and asthma causing chemicals out of our schools, offices and homes.*

California is proposing to regulate formaldehyde emissions from building materials - specifically composite wood products. Industry members have organized to derail the proposal. Your support is critical. **We need you to sign a letter of support to keep the process on track.**

**Formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products are toxic.** These products are currently made using large amounts of urea formaldehyde resins as a binder. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) estimates that as much as 400 tons of formaldehyde is emitted by these products each year in California, leading to hazardous concentration levels in the air in buildings that can trigger asthma, cause cancer<sup>1</sup> and may also be a contributor to building related illnesses and multiple chemical sensitivity. There is no known safe level.

**This is an important and precedent setting environmental health and social justice issue** as formaldehyde laden composite wood products are used widely for low income housing and schools. But all of us are exposed to these materials everyday in our homes, schools, offices and other buildings.

**CARB is taking action.** CARB staff is preparing a proposal to regulate formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products, including particle board, MDF (medium density fiberboard), and interior plywood – the materials used to sheathe walls and make cabinets and engineered flooring. CARB proposes a two step process with a modest limit on emissions for products manufactured after July 1, 2008 and much stricter limits in 2010 (and 2012 for some products) that will virtually eliminate the addition of formaldehyde during product manufacture.

**The CARB proposed goals are very attainable.** Europe's E1 standard is already at the level proposed by CARB for 2008 and can be met with current technology by most US manufacturers now. The stricter standards proposed for 2010 are similar to Japan's current F three star standard. Several cost effective formaldehyde free technologies are on the US market already. Worldwide manufacturers, most notably the Chinese, are currently meeting these standards for exports to Europe and Japan now. In the meantime, with no regulations to constrain them, those same Chinese manufacturers are selling cheap inferior formaldehyde laden products in the US.

**Timeline:**

- 6/20/06: CARB staff released a preliminary draft of the regulations.
- 12/8/06: CARB staff will present a final draft of the proposed regulations to the CARB Board. Assuming the Board assents, a public comment period will begin at this time for 45 days.
- 1/26/07: CARB Board will hold a hearing and final vote on the regulations.

### What you can do:

- Sign on** to the attached letter of support for the CARB action. See directions below at the end of the letter for the information we need for your sign-on.
- Attend** and speak at upcoming meetings. Find information on meeting times, locations, agendas and teleconference options at [www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/workshops.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/workshops.htm)
- Write CARB** to express your support. The CARB address and sample letters are at <http://www.formaldehyde-free.org/download.aspx> Let us know if you write [ffree@hooperwolfe.com](mailto:ffree@hooperwolfe.com)

### For more information on formaldehyde and the proposed regulations:

- Healthy Building Network [www.healthybuilding.net/formaldehyde](http://www.healthybuilding.net/formaldehyde)
- California Air Resources Board [www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/background.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/background.htm)
- Formaldehyde Free Coalition [www.formaldehyde-free.org](http://www.formaldehyde-free.org)  
or contact Michael Wolfe or Pat Hooper at 510-315-1010 [ffree@hooperwolfe.com](mailto:ffree@hooperwolfe.com)

---

<sup>1</sup> US Occupational Safety & Health Administration, Medical surveillance - Formaldehyde <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/formaldehyde/> The World Health Organization and CA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment have both identified formaldehyde as a known human carcinogen. California has added it to the Proposition 65 list of chemicals known to cause cancer.

## **Letter of Support to California Air Resources Board On Regulation of Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood**

Jim Aguila  
Manager  
Stationary Source Division/Substance Evaluation Section  
Air Resources Board/CalEPA  
1001 I Street,  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Mr. Aguila:

We the undersigned represent a broad range of individuals, companies and non profit organizations concerned about the impact of building materials on human health. We are strongly in support of the efforts of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to regulate formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products.

The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has listed formaldehyde as a known carcinogen on the Proposition 65 list, and the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified formaldehyde as a known human carcinogen. In light of these classifications and bearing in mind formaldehyde's asthmagenic effects, there is sufficient reason to be very concerned about the estimated 400 tons emitted by composite wood products each year in California. With new cost effective technologies for producing composite wood products already on the market worldwide there is no reason not to act now to begin the phase out of the use of formaldehyde in board production.

Europe, China, Japan and others are all regulating this toxic chemical in composite wood products. Without regulations, California is becoming a dumping ground for cheap, toxic products from overseas that can't be sold elsewhere and that increasingly threaten our population – and especially our children - with bronchial injury and cancer. With regulation the market will respond with an even greater selection of healthier products.

We strongly support the CARB staff proposal to regulate formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products rapidly and bring them as close to zero as is technically possible by 2010.

Please continue to press for the most stringent regulations you can implement with a meaningful rapid timeline.

Signed,

(signatories will be listed on attached pages)

## **Initial signatories to the letter of support to CARB**

This list will be updated as signatories are added

**Healthy Building Network** - Tom Lent, Technical Policy Director, Berkeley, CA

**Build It Green** - Brian Gitt, Executive Director, Berkeley, CA

**Center for Environmental Health** - Charlie Pizarro, Program Director, Oakland, CA

**Health Care Without Harm** – Anna Gilmore Hall, Executive Director, Washington, DC

**San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility** -

Robert M. Gould, MD, President, San Francisco, CA

### **To sign on:**

Please let us know if you or your organization can sign on. We are seeking support from organizations - both profit and non profit - and from individuals.

To sign on, send an email to [ffree@hooperwolfe.com](mailto:ffree@hooperwolfe.com) indicating:

- 1) Your name
- 2) The name of your organization or company
- 3) City & State
- 4) Is your organization able to sign on?
- 5) Name and position of person who authorized this sign on for listing
- 6) If you are signing on as an individual, can your company affiliation still be listed, if indicated as for identification purposes only? If not, please provide your occupation for identification.
- 7) Your preferred email address for future notifications about this effort (we promise we won't send many)

As of 6/20/2006 there are 171 signatories representing 84 organizations and 87 individuals. 56 firms that design, construct and sell buildings – the users of these products signed – were joined by another 50 individual signers who make their living in the industry.

25 non profit organizations concerned about environmental health signed on, including ten of the leading national environmental health organizations. Several others are weighing in individually. 3 California local government agencies have already signed on their support (with more on the way)

### **Organizational signatories:**

Above and Beyond Construction, El Cerrito, CA, Tammy Long, Partner

AIM Associates, Petaluma, CA, George Beeler, Architect

Alameda County Integrated Waste Management Authority, San Leandro, CA, Karen Kho, Program Manager

Andrea Traber Architecture + Sustainability, Berkeley, CA, Andrea Traber, Principal

Ansob Design, Sacramento, CA, Bill Whipple, Partner

Breast Cancer Action, San Francisco, CA, Barbara Brenner, Executive Director

Breast Cancer Fund, San Francisco, CA, Jeanne Rizzo, RN, Executive Director

Build It Green, Berkeley, CA, Brian Gitt, Executive Director

Burton Tahara Architects, LLP, Berkeley, CA, David Burton, AIA, Partner  
CalAg, LLC, Browns Valley, CA, Jerry Uhland, President  
Center for Environmental Health, San Francisco, CA, Charlie Pizarro, Program Director  
Center for Health, Environment and Justice, Fall Church, VA, Stacey Gonzales, Coordinator  
Certified Forest Products, LLC, Orinda, CA, John Parr, President & CEO  
Champion Indoor Environmental Services, LLC, Cottonwood, AZ, Stacey Champion, Owner  
Christine Reid Interior Design, El Cerrito, CA, Christine Reid, Owner  
Citizen's Environmental Coalition, Albany, NY, Kathleen A. Curtis, Executive Director  
City of Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, Phil Kamlarz, City Manager  
City of San Jose Environmental Services Dept, San Jose, CA, Michael Foster, Green Building Program  
DesignARC Architects, Los Angeles, CA, Michael Heacock, Project Manager  
Earth Caretakers, San Rafael, CA, Meg Beeler, Principal  
Eco Design Resources, San Carlos, CA, Jon Heffner, Showroom Manager  
Ecology Center, Ann Arbor, MI, Tracy Easthope, MPH, Director, Environmental Health Project  
Environmental Health Fund, Boston, MA, Gary Cohen, Executive Director  
Fairfax Lumber & Hardware, Fairfax, CA, Augie Venezia, President  
First Community Housing Corp, San Jose, CA, Jeff Oberdorfer, AIA, Executive Director  
Friends of Esteros, Mill Valley, CA, Tom Yarish, Co-chair  
Gary Dobson Construction, Martinez, CA, Gary Dobson, Owner  
Global Green USA, Santa Monica, CA, Walker Wells, RESCUE Program Director  
Green Building Architects, Petaluma, CA, Bill Wolpert, Architect  
Green Perspectives, Santa Cruz, CA, Susan Wyche, Landscape Designer  
Green to Go, Green Building Design Services, San Francisco, CA, Marian Keeler, Owner  
Greenguard Environmental Institute, Atlanta, GA, Ben Taube, Public Affairs Manager  
Guttman & Blaevoet, Consulting Engineers, San Francisco, CA, Steven Guttman, PE, Principal  
Hall Construction & Woodworking, Mill Valley, CA, Terry Hall, Owner  
Han's Construction, Inc., Oakland, CA, Joshua Beth, Operations Manager  
Health & Habitat, Inc., Mill Valley, CA, Dr. Sandra Ross, President  
Health Care Without Harm, Washington, DC, Anna Gilmore Hall, Executive Director  
Healthy Building Network, Berkeley, CA, Tom Lent, Technical Policy Advisor  
Healthy Children Organizing Project, San Francisco, CA, Neil Gendel, Director  
Healthy Schools Campaign, Chicago, IL, Mark Bishop, Deputy Director  
Healthy Schools Network, Washington, DC, Claire Barnett, Executive Director  
High Seas Construction, Carmel, CA, Douglas Poole, President & CEO  
Home Pride Construction, Inc., Pacifica, CA, Rick Lee, President  
Hubbell Daily Architecture + Design, Mill Valley, CA, J. Bradford Hubbell, President  
IHS Home building, Inc., Fairfax, CA, Walter Bess, Owner  
Inkmoon Architects, San Anselmo, CA, James Bill, President  
Institute for Market Transformation to Sustainability, Washington, DC, Mike Italiano, President & CEO  
JS Construction, San Francisco, CA, Jon Shea, Owner  
La vita e Bella, Inc., San Francisco, CA, Nadja Pentic, Owner  
Lescure Engineers, PE, Santa Rosa, CA, Peter Lescure, PE, Civil Engineer  
LSF Communications, Oakland, CA, Lisa & David Fry, Owner

M. Grace Designs, Inc., Chicago, IL, M. Grace Sielaff, Principal  
M. Landman Communications & Consulting, Tomales, CA, Miriam Landman, Owner  
Master Builders, Berkeley, CA, Seth Melchert, Owner  
Maximo Construction, San Francisco, CA, Arcadia Maximo, Owner  
McCutcheon Construction, Inc., Berkeley, CA, Michael McCutcheon, Owner  
MCS Beacon of Hope, Dorchester, SC, Peggy Troiano, Executive Director  
Muthig Designs, San Francisco, CA, Tom Muthig, Partner  
Natural Home Design Center, Santa Rosa, CA, Susan Bahl, Owner  
On the Beam Remodeling, Ind., Oakland, CA, Lisa Schliff, Owner  
Oregon Toxics Alliance, Eugene, OR, David Monk, President  
Pacific Wellness Education, El Cerrito, CA, Michelle Nemer, Director  
Pesticide Action Network North America, San Francisco, CA, Margaret Reeves, PhD, Senior Scientist  
Peter Lyon General Contractor, Campbell, CA, Peter Lyon, Owner  
R.T. West Construction Company, Middletown, CA, Robert T. West, President  
Renaissance Remodelers, San Anselmo, CA, Mark Nelson, Owner  
Rising Design & Construction, Petaluma, CA, John Rising, Owner  
Ryan Brothers Construction, Berkeley, CA, Tom Ryan, Owner  
Saida + Sullivan Design Partners, San Francisco, CA, Michelle (Mimi) Sullivan, AIA, Principal  
San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility, San Francisco, CA, Robert M. Gould, MD, President  
Science and Environmental Health Network, Ames, IA, Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, Science Director  
Sky Builders, Inc., Cotati, CA, J. Sky Matula, President  
Sloan Environmental, San Francisco, CA, Christy Sloan, Owner  
SOLDATA Energy Consulting, Santa Rosa, CA, Bill Mattinson, Owner  
Spectrum Fine Homes, Inc., Mountain View, CA, Robert Davis, Owner  
Strategic Construction Management, Santa Cruz, CA, David Tanza, AIA, Principal  
Sustainable Design Consulting, LLC, Richmond, VA, Sandra Liebowitz Early, RA, Principal  
Sustainable Development & Planning, Santa Cruz, CA, Patrizia Materassi, Owner  
Sustainable Home Interior Design, Palo Alto, CA, Kirsten Flynn, Owner  
USGBC Northern California Chapter, San Francisco, CA, Sharon Revfem, President  
VanMechelen Architects, Berkeley, CA, Greg VanMechelen, Owner  
Victor Conforti Architecture, Sonoma, CA, Victor Conforti, Owner  
Woodshanti Cooperative, Inc., San Francisco, CA, Shawn Berry, Co-Owner

### **Individual signatories:**

(organizational affiliations listed for identification purposes only)

Zohra Akhter, Architect, LA, CA  
Patricia, Helen, & Rose Anton, CA  
Laura Baker, CPA, St. Helena, CA  
Carroll Begley, CA  
Laura Behdjou, Realtor, Carnelian Bay, CA  
Anthony Bernheim, FAIA, Principal, SMWM Architects, San Francisco, CA  
Tripp Borstel, Project Consultant, BRIDGE Housing Corp, San Francisco, CA

Susan Brinchman, Director and Founder, Center for School Mold Help, La Mesa, CA  
Shanna Brown, Architect, San Francisco, CA  
Mairead Brown, Designer, design TECH Interior Design Services, Inc., Sacramento, CA  
William Buchholz, AIA, CCS, Architect, Specifications Consultants, Redwood City, CA  
Margaret Budd, San Diego, CA  
Barry Bussewitz, Educator, Solano Community College, Fairfield, CA  
Marie Chan, Chair, Internal Air Quality Steering Committee, Novato Unified School District, Novato, CA  
Jeremy Coerper, Geologist, Carlisle, PA  
Monica Cooper, Attorney, CA  
Colleen Crowley, RN, Nurse, CA  
Laura Dickinson, CA  
Adele Dow, Facility Manager, UCSF, San Francisco, CA  
Peter Engel, Principal, Peter Engel Architect, Berkeley, CA  
Judy Ettlinger, Berkeley, CA  
Eric Ettlinger, Aquatic Ecologist, Marin Municipal Water Dist, Corte Madera, CA  
Richard Frasco, CA  
Grant French, Project Engineer, Swinerton Builders, San Francisco, CA  
Doug Frey, Oakland, CA  
Pete Gang, Architect, Common Sense Design, Petaluma, CA  
Jennifer Glasier, Landscape Architect, San Francisco, CA  
Linda Good, Principal Architect, Equinox Design, Sebastapol, CA  
Michael Gorman, Building Inspections/Plans Examiner, City of Belmont, Belmont, CA  
David Gottfredson, Project Superintendent, San Rafael, CA  
Daniel Grandy, AIA, Architect, Anshen+Allen Architects, SF, CA  
David Grau, Toolmaker, Chico, CA  
Catherine Gray, Mother, CA  
Alis Gumbiner, Individual Homebuilder, Carmel Valley, CA  
Mark Hallock, Project Manager, San Francisco, CA  
Jean Hansen, Senior Associate, Chong Partners Architecture, San Francisco, CA  
Robin Hoffman, Owner, Riverwood Naturals, Woodmere, OH  
Abraham Hopkins, Paradigm Building, Oakland, CA  
Christian Hunkeler, Electrical Engineer, Rosendin Electric, Inc., San Jose, CA  
Scott Hurd, House Painter, Green House Painting, Fairfax, CA  
Melanie Jacobson, CA  
Michael Juniphant, Mechanical Engineer, San Francisco, CA  
Jeffrey Justine, Intern Architect, Sacramento, CA  
James Kao, City Planner, Signal Hill, CA  
Jerry Kauffman, College Instructor, CA  
Alex Keating, Green Builder, West Chester, PA  
Sharon Kramer, Real Estate Agent, Rancho Santa Fe, CA  
Tyler Krehlik, Sustainability Chair, Anshen+Allen Architects, San Francisco, CA  
Sundong Kwong, Individual, Danville, CA  
Lynn Lawson, Author, "Staying Well in a Toxic World", Evanston, IL  
Angela Legault, Business Development Manager, Home Heroes Indoor Air Quality, Georgetown, ON

Karen Lesney, Architect, Monterey, CA  
Jason Lewis, Builders Exchange Construction Services Directory Advisor, Bay Directories, Oakland, CA  
Debra Lombard, Sustainable Design Specialist, RETEC Group, Inc., New Haven, CT  
Deborah Martin, Public relations and Marketing professional, OSG Public Relations, Miami, FL  
Shima Motoyama, Student, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA  
Karsten Mueller, PhD, Green Building Consultant, Santa Cruz, CA  
Chikezie Nzewi, Mechanical Engineer, C&B Consulting Engineers, San Francisco, CA  
Suzanne Olson, San Carlos, CA  
P. Michael Panagopoulous, Engineer, Rosendin Electric, Inc., San Jose, CA  
Ludmilla Pavlova, RA, Architect, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA  
Barbara Rabin, MSPT, Physical Therapist, Gates Mills, OH  
Cynthia Rahav, Coordinator, Sustainable Petaluma, Petaluma, CA  
Ben Ramos, Architect, Sacramento, CA  
Ana Maria Rebelo, Program Coordinator, County of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA  
Julian Redwood, Noe Valley Power & Light, San Francisco, CA  
Susan Richter, Nonprofit administrator and cultural arts consultant, CA  
Jennifer Roberts, Author, 'Good Green Kitchens'; 'Good Green Homes', San Francisco, CA  
Billie Romain, Green Building Coordinator, City of Berkeley, Berkeley, CA  
Shalene Rose, Realtor, Oakland, CA  
Al & Mary Rosen, Real Estate Investors, Oakland, CA  
Sara Rosenthal, Acquisitions, A.F. Evans Development, Inc., Oakland, CA  
Jim Rusake, Realtor, CPS Homes & Land Realty, Santa Rosa, CA  
Jeanne Santangelo, Columnist, Novato Advocate, Novato, CA  
Ryan Schmidt, San Jose, CA  
Helen Shane, Sebastopol, CA  
Michael Slade, Principal, Eco-Struction, LLC, Ben Lomond, CA  
Christian Soares, Project Manager, Field Paoli, San Francisco, CA  
Kate Spaulding, Industrial Hygienist/Furniture Designer, San Francisco, CA  
Joan Spencer, RRT, Registered Respiratory Therapist, Gilroy, CA  
Kim Sykes, Designer, Oakland, CA  
W. Ward Thompson, AIA, Architect, HKS Architects, Inc., Beverly Hills, CA  
Beverly & David Van Winden, Retired, CA  
Stephanie Weigel, PhD, Research and Planning Consultant, Arcata, CA  
Land Weismehl, AIA, CSI, CCS, CCCA, Architect, DES Architects + Engineering, Redwood City, CA  
Jess Wendover, Community Design Director/Rose Architectural Fellow, Urban Ecology, San Francisco, CA  
Tiffany Whitfill, Recycling Coordinator, San Mateo, CA  
Roseanna Woods, Santa Rosa, CA

(organizational affiliations listed for identification purposes only)