



December 8, 2016

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
Independent Review Panel

RE: DTSC Environmental Chemistry Laboratory (ECL)

Dear Members of the Independent Review Panel:

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a national environmental organization with 2.4 million members and activists, 380,000 of whom are Californians, I am writing to provide our comments on the DTSC ECL.

Over the past the few years I have had the opportunity to interact with DTSC ECL in several different ways: during implementation of a new state law for labeling of flame retardant chemicals in furniture, as part of the Biomonitoring California program which measures chemicals in the environment and bodies of Californians, and participation in their scientific seminar series.

In these interactions I have been impressed with the caliber of ECL staff; they have deep expertise in the most relevant and up-to-date scientific and technical information. I also found ECL to be transparent and responsive to stakeholder concerns. ECL testing protocols are freely available and accessible online, and ECL regularly participates in public meetings and responds to public comments. ECL also widely shares research of interest with the scientific community and the public through their seminar series, in which stakeholders can participate remotely.

Overall, in our experience ECL's activities have played an important and critical role in protecting Californian's health and the environment from toxic chemicals.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide more information.

Sincerely,

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