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**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

December 16, 2011

Lisa Jackson, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Jackson:

I would like to bring to your attention a significant environmental concern that has both national and international implications and one that is within EPA's authority to correct. This issue is in regards to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that continue to be manufactured overseas and are allowed to enter our environment in accordance with current EPA regulations.

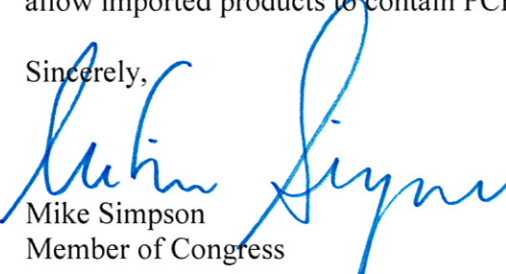
EPA's Toxics Substance Control Act (TSCA) regulations currently allow imported products to contain PCB concentrations up to 50 ppm. Of particular concern are dyes and pigments that are used in the manufacture of paints, caulking, inks for printing and countless other products. Research has clearly demonstrated that PCBs from these products are entering our environment through aerial deposition, stormwater, municipal wastewater treatment plant discharges, and through industrial recycling of paper products.

EPA regulations inequitably allow overseas manufacturers to export PCB containing products into the U.S. with concentrations up to 50 ppm, while then subjecting our own businesses and communities to surface water quality standards that are nearly 8 million times more stringent. I am concerned that on the one hand, EPA's regulations allow continued manufacture and distribution of these PCB containing products, and then on the other hand cause undue hardship on U.S. businesses and communities by holding them responsible for cleaning up the EPA-permitted source of contamination.

Manufacturing alternatives for similar dyes and pigments that do not contain PCBs are available; however there is no incentive for these manufacturers to change their product formulations from past practices. The revised TSCA regulations will incentives companies to change to "PCB-free" products. If foreign manufacturers of dyes and pigments want a continued share of the U.S. market, which they certainly will, they will reformulate their manufacturing processes to provide these "PCB-free" products. These reformulations may in turn have a global benefit since manufacturers will likely not maintain separate manufacturing processes for the same products. I am concerned that failure to revise the TSCA regulation could have a profound impact on the paper recycling industry, potentially reducing or eliminating this resource use in the U.S.

On behalf of the American people and the protection of our environment, I request that your agency make the common-sense decision to revise all appropriate sections of the TSCA regulations that allow imported products to contain PCBs.

Sincerely,



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress