

# JOURNAL INQUIRER

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To the Editor,

While I applaud recent EPA rulings further restricting mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants and PVC emissions from chemical plants as huge steps in improving air quality, health and justice in our country, I am frustrated by further delays in rulings on other vital issues.

Twenty one months have passed since the EPA sent a proposed list of “chemicals of concern” to the White House’s Office of Management and Budget for review. The list includes widely used chemicals which may pose risks to public health and are currently unregulated.

The list has been stuck in the OMB’s Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs for over 638 days despite an executive order requiring reviews to be complete in 90 days, or 120 in some cases. Listing the chemicals of concern is a vital step in the EPA’s attempts to strengthen the Toxics Substances Control Act (TSCA), the outdated system of regulating toxic substances which has allowed thousands of untested chemicals onto the market in everyday products all around us. In fact, of 83,000 chemicals used in manufacturing, only 5 have been fully regulated under TSCA.

To me, this shows the influence of heavy spending by the chemicals industry on lobbying efforts against reform of TSCA. Do you think it is a coincidence that the American Chemistry Council spent almost \$10.3 million dollars last year on its lobbying efforts? Dow Chemical spent \$7.3 million. Money may talk, but votes speak louder! A strong majority of voters from both parties support reform of toxic chemical regulations. Right now there are excellent legislative bills to do just that in both the U.S. Senate and the CT state legislature. Let your legislators know that you are tired of wondering whether the products you use every day are safe!!

Sincerely,

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