

PRESS RELEASE

Assemblymember **PEDRO NAVA**



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Joint Green Chemistry Hearing Examines Elimination of Toxics from the Marketplace

(SACRAMENTO)—The Assembly's environmental and health committees met today in a special joint hearing today to discuss the information gap that prevents consumers from finding safe, healthy alternatives to toxic consumer products currently on the market.

Assemblymember Pedro Nava (D-Santa Barbara), chair of the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, convened the investigative hearing to determine whether the state agencies that require the elimination of toxic chemicals are meeting their legal obligations.

"California has a strong law that allows the state to ban dangerous chemicals in consumer products. The question we are asking is whether or not the agencies are following the law and acting aggressively to protect consumers from toxics," said Nava. "Investigations have found that state agencies are proposing regulations with huge loopholes that allow products like soaps and cosmetics to include dangerous chemicals. The Department of Toxic Substances Control is ignoring the data gaps that allow chemicals to be marketed to children and teenagers and sold without adequate safety information. What we've found is that California basically has a 'don't ask, don't tell' policy when it comes to toxic chemicals."

Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro (D, North Coast), who is the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, noted the need to expand the state program to save taxpayer the high cost of managing toxic waste, "it is important that the California's Green Chemistry program provides a pathway to shared responsibility between producers and governmental entities for the management of toxic materials. I have a particular interest in the successes and challenges of this program because as I strive to create a similar Producer Responsibility program for materials that currently end up in California's waste stream. "

~~"Because of the lack of government policy around toxic chemicals in all aspects of our lives, we founded Teens Turning Green to take action to eliminate these exposures," said California student Mari Vial-Golden. "TTG will launch a powerful initiative this fall called Project Green Clean working toward safer products, practices, and guidelines for households and schools. Efforts like this, as well as community action on important government programs like the Green Chemistry Initiative, are necessary to protect consumers."~~

The hearing's major focus was on the implementation of Assembly Bill 1879 (2008, Feuer) and Senate Bill 509 (2007, Simitian), both of which created the "Green Chemistry Initiative" which

established a mechanism for public information and regulatory review of toxic chemical uses.
Witnesses discussed whether state agencies are doing enough to protect California consumers.

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