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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

April 11, 2013

The Honorable William L. Owens
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Owens:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Donald Hassig, and Dr. David Carpenter, Director of the Institute for Health and the Environment at the University at Albany's School of Public Health, regarding persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have several programs that address exposure to POPs.

- ATSDR's Toxicological Profiles and ToxFAQs provide information on the impacts of various chemicals—including many POPs—on human health and ways to reduce exposure. These are available via ATSDR's Toxic Substances Portal at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substances/index.asp.
- NCEH's Division of Laboratory Sciences produces the National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. This report includes information on human exposure to many POPs and can be accessed at www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/.
- NCEH and ATSDR are also involved in investigations and studies of POP exposure at specific locations and amongst targeted population groups.
- Finally, ATSDR is completing development of additional information for healthcare providers and individuals on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dioxins. The PCB materials are expected to be released this summer and the dioxin materials will be released later this year.

As noted in our May 14, 2012, letter, NCEH and ATSDR have actively engaged with Mr. Hassig for several years. For example, one staff member participated in two phone conferences with him recently regarding POPs and other chemical exposure reductions. Additionally, our staff is familiar with Dr. Carpenter's work, including the World Health Organization's report you mentioned on the impacts of POPs on children. Dr. Carpenter also served as a reviewer for our Great Lakes Areas of Concern Report, which included information on POPs exposure. The full report is available at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/grtlakes/aocreport/reports.

Thank you again for your letter. We hope this information is helpful to you, Dr. Carpenter, and Mr. Hassig.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.,
Director, CDC, and
Administrator, ATSDR