



April 23, 2012

The Hon. Paul Broun, Chair  
Subcommittee on Investigations & Oversight  
Science, Space & Technology Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
B-374 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Paul D. Tonko, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Investigations & Oversight  
Science, Space & Technology Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
394 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Renee Ellmers, Chair  
Subcommittee on Healthcare & Technology  
Small Business Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2361 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Cedric Richmond, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Healthcare & Technology  
Small Business Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
B-343C Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Regarding the April 25<sup>th</sup> Hearing: How the Report on Carcinogens Uses Science to Meet its Statutory Obligations and its Impact on Small Business Jobs**

Dear Chairman Broun, Chairwoman Ellmers, Ranking Member Tonko, and Ranking Member Richmond,

On behalf of the Breast Cancer Fund and our 70,000 members nationwide, I write in strong support of the National Toxicology Program's Report on Carcinogens. The National Toxicology Program (NTP), headquartered at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), produces the Report on Carcinogens to provide science-based information on the health hazards of cancer-causing substances. The information in the Report on Carcinogens serves a wide range of people and needs, providing objective and thorough scientific information that is used across the United States and around the world. We urge the Committee Members to endorse the Report's conclusions and to continue to back, if not expand, this critical public health document moving forward.

The epidemic of cancer in the country has touched all of us. Breast cancer alone accounts for over 230,000 diagnoses and almost 40,000 deaths per year. True prevention is the only way to avoid the devastating impact of a cancer diagnosis on individuals and their families and friends. The Breast Cancer Fund's mission is to prevent breast cancer by identifying and working to eliminate the environmental causes of the disease. As an organization that bases our public education and policy advocacy on a strong foundation of science, we rely heavily on the work of NTP and the Report on Carcinogens to inform ourselves and our members about chemicals that pose health hazards and how to prevent unnecessary exposure to cancer-causing chemicals.

The Report on Carcinogens, which has been mandated by Congress since 1978, reviews the peer-reviewed science suggesting links between substances and cancer, then summarizes the information and makes it available to government regulators, medical personnel, and the general public. NIEHS scientists have extensive training across a broad range of cancer-related specialties, including breast cancer, and are capable of high-level evaluations of the toxicological and epidemiological studies we rely on to determine safety and hazards. The Report on Carcinogens summarizes the deliberations of many scientists who evaluate the body of scientific

evidence and come to conclusions regarding the state of the science. These conclusions, which undergo review by scientists outside of NIEHS, form a critical basis for actions in public health and medical practices.

This process is, and must remain, science-based and free from political or economic interference. There is ample opportunity for the public and industry to offer information and input, but the integrity of the report depends on NTP's reliance on the data and the peer review of the report by a panel of external experts. NIEHS is a public health agency, not a regulatory agency. Their mission is to look objectively at the science and provide unbiased information about the risk posed by certain chemicals. This crucial work must continue.

When we are informed about carcinogens in our environment, homes, schools, and workplaces, we are in the best position to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities. The NTP and the Report on Carcinogens provides us with robust and thorough evaluations of carcinogens carried out by an objective scientific agency; it is a public health service that is essential to all of us who care about protecting health and reducing the plague of cancer in our country.

We again urge you and your Subcommittee members to support the work of NTP and of NIEHS as a whole. Our country's health and economic security will be stronger for it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Rizzo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Rizzo, R.N.  
President and CEO