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for better living

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

September 7, 2011

Ms. Linda Glasier  
Stakeholder Coordinator  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
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Dr. Alex Stone  
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**RE: Stakeholder Scoping Questions – Draft Alternative Assessment Guidance**

Dear Ms. Glasier and Dr. Stone:

The American Cleaning Institute® (ACI) appreciates the opportunity to provide the following information in response to the August 10, 2011 letter from the Washington State Department of Ecology. With this letter, ACI seeks to engage and remain an interested party to provide input as the Department intends to begin to generate an Alternative Assessment Guidance Document.

ACI is the trade association representing the \$30 billion U.S. cleaning products market. ACI members include the formulators of soaps, detergents, and general cleaning products used in household, commercial, industrial and institutional settings; companies that supply ingredients and finished packaging for these products; and oleochemical producers. ACI and its members are dedicated to improving health and the quality of life through sustainable cleaning products and practices. ACI's mission is to support the sustainability of the cleaning products industry through research, education, outreach and science-based advocacy. Since 1926, ACI has promoted health through personal hygiene and effective cleaning.

**Responses to Stakeholder Scoping Questions:**

The following are ACI responses to the repeated *italicized* Stakeholder Scoping Questions as provided by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

1. *What are your three main observations with the continuum process proposed by Ecology?*

ACI supports the federal modernization of the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (TSCA). To that end, ACI believes that, in general, specific chemical management legislation in individual states would contribute to a patchwork of regulation and reduce the effectiveness of comprehensive chemical management and U.S. leadership in chemical innovation. Chemical management policy is also a resource intensive initiative requiring extensive professional and technical resources and full, consistent funding over

lengths of time. It is unclear to ACI whether such will be the case in Washington (e.g. a designated grant versus established funding).

2. *Has Ecology omitted any technical concerns as important components of the guidance continuum?*

ACI believes that a comprehensive chemical management system must provide a systematic, scientific and collaborative process to address priority chemicals and chemical uses of concern. Chemical management systems must have a reasonable, clearly defined approach for nominating, evaluating, and managing chemicals that should apply to the whole of commerce. Among other concerns, ACI believes the proposal appears to identify chemicals of concern simply on their hazard profile.

3. *What are some of the positives this process might bring?*

ACI appreciates the communication from the Department regarding its intention to generate an Alternative Assessment Guidance Document and ACI seeks to remain an interested party to provide further input.

4. *Do you have any other concerns with the proposed process?*

ACI seeks to remain an interested party to provide input throughout the process and please refer to the responses inclusive of the document.

5. *Do you agree that the continuum approach is the best way to approach the various needs of an alternative assessment?*

ACI believes that a risk-based approach is a fundamental component and important to ground any chemicals management work. ACI encourages a harmonized and sustainable approach to chemical management.

6. *Given the aggressive timeline, which of the components listed above are most important to be tackled first?*

ACI believes that a risk-based approach is a fundamental component and important to ground any chemicals management work; ACI further encourages a harmonized and sustainable approach to chemical management.

7. *The stakeholder group will have the opportunity to provide additional input once the draft guidance framework has been formed, midpoint and before the guidance is finalized. Do you have any additional input to provide before the states begin discussing the guidance document?*

ACI seeks to understand if it is the Department of Ecology's intention to specifically rely, reference or otherwise use other established federal or international chemical management processes.

ACI also notes references to 'safer' alternatives, and queries as to the breadth of the application of that term, and whether industry analyzed alternatives assessments will be considered along with the business case as to why and when alternatives may be chosen.

ACI has provided extensive comment to the EPA Design for the Environment (DfE) program concerning the *Alternatives Assessment Criteria for Hazard Evaluation*. ACI would note that, according to the Department of Ecology materials, EPA's DfE program will be relied upon as a technical advisor. ACI has urged the DfE program (in extensive comments not fully recounted here) as it prepares its *Alternatives Assessment Criteria for Hazard Evaluation* to –

- More clearly explain how the criteria for hazard assessment will be used in the alternatives assessment process to compare multiple alternatives to each other;
- Apply broader sustainability criteria when evaluating a particular chemical and its uses against alternative chemicals for each of the same uses; and
- Reconsider and enhance the criteria it has selected.

ACI represents leading consumer product manufacturers who are committed to the safety of their products, and maintaining the confidence of consumers. For future reference, please contact me via electronic mail at [dtoutman@cleaninginstitute.org](mailto:dtoutman@cleaninginstitute.org) or on (202) 347-2900.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Troutman', enclosed within a circular scribble.

Douglas M. Troutman  
Senior Director, Government Affairs  
American Cleaning Institute