

Dear Friends,

It's time for industries to get the message: Lead, arsenic, phthalates, bisphenol-A, and other toxic chemicals have no place in children's lives. But industrial titans are doing their best to ignore the outcry.

That's why we worked harder than ever in 2008 to help parents send the message to Congress, companies, government agencies, and the cash register: all people have the right to live without toxic chemicals trespassing in their bodies.

Of course, we also continued doing the work that families can't do: litigating against industrial polluters, creating market incentives for business practices that protect people and the environment, and pushing government officials to adopt strong public policies like this year's toxic toy ban.

Please read on and learn more about the victories that the Center for Environmental Health won for families like yours in 2008.

Your partner in health,

Michael Green, Executive Director



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### GETTING RESULTS – THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LEADS THE NATIONAL EFFORT TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM LEAD

**Keeping Lead out of Drinking Water** – In 2007 we identified the single largest source of new lead in the environment: auto wheel weights that fall from cars and leave an annual half million pounds of lead on roads in California alone. This year we wrapped up our legal work to eliminate the threat this lead poses to our drinking water and our children's health. Our settlement with Chrysler and the three major US wheel weight manufacturers requires them to stop selling wheel weights in California made from the dangerous metal at the end of next year. The *Los Angeles Times* called it a "first step toward a broader ban."



**Lead in Diaper Bags** – Early this year we discovered high levels of lead not only in handles and other high-exposure parts of diaper bags, but also in the changing pads sold with the bags. We found lead-tainted bags at retail giants like K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Babies R Us and others. Eastport, a manufacturer of bags for K-Mart, has agreed to our demands to get lead out of these baby products. As this report goes to press, others are preparing to follow suit.

**Lead in Hannah Montana Gear** – Anticipating a run on Hannah Montana (HM) gear around the release of her movie last spring, we began testing HM products purchased at Wal-Mart, Toys R Us and Target last winter. We found backpacks, totes, a wallet, and other pre-teen products tainted with dangerous levels of lead. Our findings caught the eye of the nation through media outlets such as the *CBS Early Show* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

**Lead in Artificial Turf** – This spring, CEH exposed high levels of lead in artificial turf and indoor/outdoor carpeting purchased from turf makers, installers, and retailers (including Home Depot, Ace Hardware, and Costco). In June, we took legal action against the turf manufacturers and are now working with the California Attorney General to force the companies to eliminate the health threat.



We also led a vigorous media, outreach, and free testing campaign to inform families about the danger. After receiving coverage in *USA Today*, over 300 parents, schools,

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day care centers, and local governments from around the nation sent us turf samples to test, and more than half were contaminated with high levels of lead. In the coming months, we will forge a settlement that requires the entire artificial turf industry to eliminate lead threats to children and others who play on artificial turf fields.

**CEH Enforces the Law** – This year, CEH also began a two-year project to verify that companies have actually removed lead from their children’s jewelry products in keeping with the terms we forced them to accept in 2006. To date we have found over a dozen violations and will work with the California Attorney General to force these companies to stop exposing children to lead. The project marks a vital, new direction for our legal work: compliance enforcement. Look for CEH to explore this avenue in the future.

### TEACHING BUSINESSES TO PROTECT HEALTH (AND PROFITS)

Here’s one way CEH transforms the marketplace: (1) we find overlooked polluters that expose people to dangerous, synthetic chemicals (the food and electronics industries are perfect targets); (2) we find the institutional purchasers who buy vast quantities from these polluters; and (3) we teach purchasers how to demand products that protect workers, communities, and consumers from toxic chemicals.

**Electronics** – Typically unwilling to share information about their manufacturing processes with public health advocates

like CEH, computer manufacturers are more than happy to meet the demands of huge institutional purchasers like Kaiser Permanente and Charles Schwab. Working with such companies, CEH has created surveys that have forced computer manufacturers to lift the shroud of trade secrecy, revealing their products’ obsolescence plans, use of toxic chemicals (like halogenated flame retardants, polyvinyl chloride, mercury, and many more), energy use, packaging impact, and manufacturer take-back policies. Previously unavailable, this inside information allows us to create purchasing guidelines that raise the environmental bar for computer manufacturers.

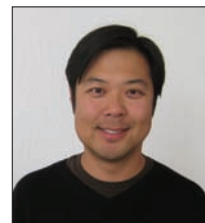
**Food** – CEH is working to equip members of the healthcare sector to purchase sustainably grown foods. Because one of the key issues confronting the sustainable food movement is the threat of genetically engineered crops and cloned animals, we spent much of this year organizing the healthcare sector against genetically engineered foods, including the first new genetically engineered crop approved for human consumption in over a decade – sugar beets. As a result of our work with Catholic Healthcare West, the healthcare giant is expected to announce that it will seek non-genetically engineered and non-cloned foods from suppliers like Nestle, Kraft, General Mills and others. And with that announcement, we expect to see some large food suppliers express their intention to source non-genetically engineered ingredients.

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### CEH WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS TO OUR BOARD

We are honored to announce that Kirsten Steward Beckwith and Roger Kim have joined CEH’s Board of Directors.

Kirsten worked most recently for Social Enterprise Alliance, a national nonprofit that connects social entrepreneurs with the resources they need. She served as a founding Advisory Board Member for the Taproot Foundation as well as for a grant-making foundation dedicated to literacy, journalism and education. She also directed a national educational AmeriCorps program and has product marketing experience for The Learning Company/Mattel and an online education company. Kirsten received her MBA from Harvard Business School.



Roger is the Policy Director of Oakland-based Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN). APEN organizes and builds the leadership of Asian immigrant and refugee communities to demand environmental and social justice. Before joining APEN, he worked at the San Francisco Foundation as the Environment Program Fellow. He also worked at Global Green USA to advance energy-efficient, green building practices in affordable housing developments. In addition, Roger serves on the Public Policy Committee of the Greenbelt Alliance and the Advisory Committee to Congresswoman Barbara Lee.

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At the Center for Environmental Health, we work in pursuit of a world in which all people live, work, learn and play in healthy environments. Please join us to make this vision real. It is a goal we can achieve only with your support. Learn more about our work and make a secure, tax-deductible donation online at [www.ceh.org](http://www.ceh.org), or by calling 510.655.3900 x303.

**CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:  
Protecting Your Family & Community From Toxic Chemicals**

Since 1996, the Center for Environmental Health has worked at the intersection of public health and the environment, reducing pollution and promoting alternatives to toxic chemicals linked with diseases like cancer, asthma, learning disabilities, and birth defects. We work with individuals and organizations across the country to prevent exposures to hazardous chemicals and to create markets for healthier products and practices. Our cutting-edge work pushes major industries to adopt greener practices, showing them the value in business that protects public health.



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