

October 17, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso, Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper, Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper,

As scientists who have devoted our careers to better understanding the impact the environment has upon our health, we urge you to reject the nomination of Dr. Michael Dourson to lead the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Research continues to illuminate critical relationships between certain environmental exposures and a wide array of health effects including cancer, infertility, and behavioral disorders. It is essential that our governmental institutions use current and best available science to evaluate chemical risks, and act promptly to protect human health and the environment where those risks exist. Granting Dr. Dourson the responsibility of overseeing EPA OCSPP would threaten the agency's ability to credibly and effectively address harmful chemical exposures.

Dr. Dourson has built a career of abusing science to mischaracterize real-world chemical risks and in doing so has jeopardized public health, including the health of those most vulnerable among us like pregnant women and children. His numerous publications on chemicals from, 1,4-dioxane to perchlorate to chlorpyrifos, demonstrate his tendency to contort, distort, or dismiss scientific evidence that lead to assertions that chemicals are safe at levels orders of magnitude higher than have been deemed safe by authoritative bodies.

Dr. Dourson's "educational" campaigns through activities like the "Kids+Chemicals Safety" website, supported with funding from the American Chemistry Council, also raise serious concerns. The website, since pulled down, sought to play down concerns linking chemicals to health concerns such as asthma, noting "most studies cannot link one individual chemical or product to the increase in wheezing or asthma-like symptoms." Or using hackneyed industry spin such as "All chemicals are toxic at some level." As members of the scientific community, we take seriously our responsibility to communicate responsibly to the broader public about our work and its implications. The Kids+Chemicals website disturbingly owes more to industry spin than to good science.

To grant Dourson the imprimatur of EPA, would both undermine the credibility of the chemicals programs and raise significant concerns about whether EPA can be trusted to ensure the safety of

commonly used chemicals—chemicals in our food, home, and places of work. We hope your committee will ask tough questions the upcoming hearing and ultimately, reject Michael Dourson’s nomination.

Sincerely,

David Michaels, PhD, MPH
Professor, Department of Environmental and
Occupational Health
Milken Institute School of Public Health, George
Washington University

Henry A. Anderson, MD
Adjunct Professor of Preventive Medicine
Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies
Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

Michael Antoniou, PhD
Head of Gene Expression and Therapy Group
King’s College London, United Kingdom

David Bellinger, PhD, MSc
Professor of Neurology
Harvard Medical School

Bruce Blumberg, PhD
Professor, Developmental & Cell Biology,
Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of California, Irvine

Leslie I. Boden, Ph.D.
Professor of Environmental Health
Boston University School of Public Health

Frank J. Bove, Sc.D
Board President
Environmental Community Action (ECO-Action)
Atlanta, Georgia

Paula Braveman, MD, MPH
Professor of Family & Community Medicine
Director, Center on Social Disparities in Health
University of California, San Francisco

Barry Castleman, ScD
Environmental Consultant
Garrett Park, Maryland

Richard Clapp, DSc, MPH
Professor Emeritus
Boston University School of Public Health

Mardge Cohen, MD
Professor of Medicine
Rush Medical College

Renee Eaton, MS, MS, ATC
Undergraduate Program Director, Instructor
Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise
Virginia Tech

Matthew Eick, PhD
Professor of Environmental Soil Chemistry
Undergraduate Program
Director Environmental Science
Department of Crop and Soil Environmental
Sciences
Virginia Tech

Brenda Eskenazi, PhD
Jennifer and Brian Maxwell Professor of
Maternal and Child Health and Epidemiology
Director, Center for Environmental Research
and Children's Health (CERCH)
School of Public Health
University of California, Berkeley

Julia Faucett, RN, PhD, FAAN
Professor Emeritus and Previous Director, OEHN
Program
University of California, San Francisco and
Northern California Center for Occupational &
Environmental Health

Arthur L. Frank, MD, PhD
Professor of Public Health and Professor of
Medicine, Drexel University

Michael Friedman, MPH, PhD
Assistant Professor of Biology
American International College of Arts and
Sciences of Antigua

Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT
Director and Founder
Institute of Neurotoxicology & Neurological
Disorders
Seattle, Washington

Perry Gottesfeld, MPH
Executive Director, Occupational Knowledge
International
San Francisco, California

Robert M. Gould, MD
Associate Adjunct Professor
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and
Reproductive Sciences
UCSF School of Medicine

Tyrone Hayes, PhD
Professor of Integrative Biology
University of California, Berkeley

Ruth M. Heifetz, MD, MPH
Senior Lecturer
Occupational/Environmental Health
School of Medicine
University of California San Diego

Lynne Parsons Heilbrun, MPH
Faculty, Specialist
Environmental Medicine
Department of Family & Community Medicine,
Joe R. & Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine
UT Health Science Center San Antonio, *DBA* UT
Health San Antonio

Stephen T. Joyce, MD, MPH, MRO, CDME
Board Certified, Occupational Medicine
National Medical Advisor, FirstSource Solutions
(formerly FirstLab)

David Kriebel, Sc.D.
Professor of Epidemiology
University of Massachusetts, Lowell

Nancy Krieger, PhD
Professor of Social Epidemiology
American Cancer Society Clinical Research
Professor
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Carol Kwiatkowski, PhD
Executive Director
The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX)
Assistant Professor Adjunct, North Carolina
State University and
University of Colorado, Boulder

Paul Landsbergis, PhD, MPH
Associate Professor, Department of
Environmental and Occupational Health
Sciences, School of Public Health
State University of New York-Downstate
Medical Center

Bruce P. Lanphear, MD, MPH
Professor of Children's Environmental Health
BC Children's Hospital, Simon Fraser University

Robert S. Lawrence, MD, MACP
Professor Emeritus, Environmental Health &
Engineering, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School
of Public Health

Richard A. Lemen, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.
Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS (ret.)
Rear Admiral, USPHS (ret.)

Charles Levenstein, PhD, MSOH
Professor Emeritus of Work Environment
University of Massachusetts, Lowell

Rob McConnell, MD
Professor of Preventive Medicine
University of Southern California

Celeste Monforton, DrPH, MPH
Lecturer
Department of Health and Human Performance
Texas State University

John Peterson Myers, PhD
Chief Scientist
Environmental Health Sciences
Adjunct Professor of Chemistry
Carnegie Mellon University

Devon Payne-Sturges, DrPH
Assistant Professor
Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental
Health
School of Public Health
University of Maryland, College Park

Christopher Portier, PhD
Former Director, Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry, Former Director, National
Center of Environmental Health, CDC
Senior Contributing Scientist
Environmental Defense Fund

Peter C. Raynor, PhD, MSEE
Associate Professor
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota

David Rempel, MD
Professor of Medicine
Division of Occupational and Environmental
Medicine
University of California, San Francisco

Cecile Rose, MD, MPH
Professor of Medicine
National Jewish Health and University of
Colorado School of Medicine

Beth Rosenberg, ScD, MPH
Tufts University School of Medicine
Former Board Member
US Chemical Safety Board

Gordon Schiff, MD
Associate Director
Center for Patient Safety Research and Practice
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Associate Professor
Harvard Medical School

Craig Slatin, ScD, MPH
Professor Emeritus
Department of Public Health
University of Massachusetts, Lowell
Editor, New Solutions: A Journal of
Environmental and Occupational Health Policy

Patrice Sutton, MPH
Research Scientist
Program on Reproductive Health and the
Environment
University of California, San Francisco

Shanna Swan, PhD
Professor, Environmental Medicine & Public
Health, Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive
Sciences
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Antonio Tovar-Aguilar, PhD
Principal Scientific Investigator
Farmworker Association of Florida Inc.

Lise Van Susteren, MD
Advisory Board
Center for Health and the Global Environment
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Deborah Wallace, PhD
Retired, Consumers Union
New York City, New York

Nina Wallerstein, DrPH
Professor, College of Population Health
University of New Mexico

David H. Wegman, MD, MSc
Professor Emeritus
Department of Work Environment
University of Massachusetts, Lowell
Adjunct Professor, Harvard T.H. Chan School of
Public Health

Lucy I. Weinstein, MD, MPH
Assistant Clinical Professor of Preventive
Medicine, School of Medicine
State University of New York at Stony Brook

R. Thomas Zoeller, PhD
Professor of Biology
University of Massachusetts

Cc: Members of the Environment and Public Works Committee