

# The Alliance for a Clean & Healthy Maine

## Our Principles

We believe that all Maine people have a right to a healthy environment where we live, work and play. We envision a future free of exposure to harmful chemicals in our air, water or food. We want our children to grow up healthy with every opportunity to thrive. We seek to build a healthy economy that provides good jobs producing clean products and services. We are proud of all that's been accomplished so far toward a clean and healthy Maine. However, serious challenges remain.

Currently, thousands of toxic or poorly tested chemicals are used in our homes, schools and work places and released into the environment from the products and activities of everyday living. Each newborn baby carries a body burden of toxic chemicals that grows over a lifetime. Increasing scientific evidence raises concern about the link between exposure to toxic chemicals and high rates of some cancers, learning and developmental disabilities, infertility and other serious health problems.

Good environmental and public health requires a new approach that favors the use of safer alternatives to harmful chemicals. We represent Maine parents, consumers, workers, physicians, public health professionals, environmentalists, scientists, educators and others in calling for a common sense use of foresight, caution and innovation.

Maine must be proactive in preventing harm to human health from toxic chemicals. Our government and business leaders should take the following actions to prevent harm:

- **Honor our Right-To-Know** – Fully disclose all toxic chemicals present in consumer products, on the job and in other settings with potential for public exposure.
- **Act on Early Warnings** – When there's credible evidence of harm, take protective action even when the exact nature and magnitude of the harm is not fully understood.
- **Choose the Safest Alternatives** – Use safer technologies, materials, chemicals and innovative new solutions whenever they are available, effective and affordable.
- **Eliminate Known Hazards** – Phase out chemicals that are long lasting in the environment, or build up in the food chain and our bodies, or are known to cause cancer, genetic damage, birth defects or serious environmental harm.
- **Put Safety First** – Shift the burden of proof to industry so that they must prove the safety of poorly tested chemicals rather than waiting for government and the public to prove harm.
- **Use the Best Science** – Use the best independent science in decision-making.
- **Inform & Involve the Public** – Ensure transparent decision-making with meaningful public participation in all matters affecting public health.
- **Value Justice & Respect** – Ensure that no group of people is disproportionately exposed to toxic chemical hazards.

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### STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We endorse the work of the Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Maine and the Statement of Principles. You can use our name in the list of members and general supporters of the Alliance. Endorsement of the Alliance does not imply support for specific actions to address any particular issue.\*

Name of Organization			
Contact Person			
Mailing Address			
Telephone		Fax	
Email Address		Web Site	

\* We will not use your name in connection with any particular legislation or other proposals without your separate consent.