

The Myth About PCBs

Your June 17 page-one article "Denying Paternity: Monsanto Case Shows How Hard It Is to Tie Pollution to a Source" perpetuates a myth that is costing taxpayers, both business and consumers, untold multimillions of dollars in unnecessary cleanup costs. The myth that PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are carcinogenic gains credence by being repeatedly printed in various news releases.

The Environmental Protection Agency should either show proof that PCBs cause cancer in humans or adopt a more realistic standard than 50 parts-per-million in soils or residues. Money currently spent on trying to conform to a 50 parts-per-million standard for PCBs can be better spent for more societally acceptable uses such as investments in goods and services that will provide jobs for the thousands of homeless and unemployed.

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