Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) Medical Department

DATE : February 15, 1971

SUBJECT : Proposed Legislation on Discharge of PCB's--Massachusetts

REFERENCE :

TO : W. B. Papageorge
WPAPA

cc: H. S. Bergen, HBERG
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Attached is a copy of a bill proposed in Massachusetts "prohibiting the discharge of any chemical solution containing polychlorinated biphenyls into the environment".

This bill was read before the Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture in the state capitol in Boston last Monday, February 8. It was one of seven or eight "anti-pollution" bills introduced and received very few comments or attention. Seventy percent of the discussion at the hearing related to a proposal to allow citizen suits against pollution. Most of the other 30% related to phosphates in detergents.

In connection with the subject bill, the sponsor, Representative Atkins, read the bill publicly and indicated that "although Monsanto was the only producer and, as he understood it, discontinued the sales and use of PCB's, he introduced the bill as a form of insurance."

The executive secretary of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts spoke to Mr. Atkins and the chairman of the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee at the close of the hearing. Atkins is a freshman member of the House and obviously was looking for some piece of legislation to put his name on. Neither the chairman of the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee nor any of its members indicated any particular interest in the proposal.

Secondly, the AIM representative discussed the proposal with Mr. McMahon who directs the water pollution control activities in Massachusetts (and participated to a great degree in the phosphate-detergent proposal). McMahon said he was not particularly interested in the PCB bill as he felt he had authority within present legislation to take any action that might be necessary.

As we have discussed, I think we should get our customers together with the AIM representative to see what can be done to prevent the bill from being reported out favorably by the committee.

EPW

Elmer P. Wheeler

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