

(Suggested Letter)

Dear Congressman (or Senator) _____:

The Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee is now considering several legislative proposals dealing with the problem of eliminating the hazard of lead poisoning related to the products of our industry. Years ago, the paint industry made products containing quantities of lead pigments and compounds which, if ingested, especially by children, could produce lead poisoning with its attendant hazardous effects. These products have not been manufactured or sold by our industry for use on interior surfaces for more than 30 years due to the advent of safer, more economical, non-toxic pigments and ingredients.

The problem stems from the fact that many layers of the older-type paints are found in substandard, poorly-maintained urban dwellings, which children have access to when the interior condition is such that peeling and flaking occurs. The matter is further compounded by the high incidence of a condition known as "pica", a compulsion to eat non-food materials such as dirt, wood, paint chips and plaster, which occurs frequently among the children inhabiting these dwellings. Modern interior paints are safe to use. Any paint product containing more than 1% lead is clearly labeled to prevent its use on interior surfaces of dwellings inhabited by children.

There are exterior paint products containing lead which are essential for the maintenance and preservation of residential as well as commercial structures. These products are similarly labeled and to restrict their use would be a serious detriment to the maintenance of property in this country.

Our industry has long supported and provided leadership for action designed to eliminate the threat of lead poisoning to children. Such legislation, to be effective, should be directed toward the basic problem; namely, the removal of old paint containing more than 1% lead from exposed interior surfaces of dwellings, especially those inhabited by children. To direct legislation

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toward the elimination of modern-day paints on exterior surfaces completely ignores the nature of the problem while destroying a basic and essential product for property maintenance.

Your understanding and support, if such legislation reaches the floor of Congress, is sincerely requested. If you have any questions on this subject, please feel free to write or call me or if more convenient, Mr. Robert A. Roland, Executive Vice President, National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely,

0007-SWP-000005713

SUGGESTED TELEGRAM

Dear Senator or Congressman _____:

Legislation before the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare may soon reach the floor of Congress for action. H. R. 19172, Lead-Based Paint Elimination Act of 1970 and S. 3216, Lead Paint Poisoning Prevention Act, or amended versions thereof, are presently being considered. We support the objectives of this legislation, however, we urge that it be restricted to the real cause of lead poisoning; namely, old paint containing more than 1% lead, generally found in poorly-maintained or substandard housing. Modern interior paints are safe and properly labeled. Exterior paints are properly labeled and not related to this problem. Restrictions on exterior paint products will seriously affect maintenance of dwellings and structures and in no way assist us in eliminating the basic problem.

Request your consideration and support for proposals recognizing this distinction.

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