

To Whom It May Concern:

As a hotel guest, I am writing to ask you to replace all toxic cleaning products used in your hotels with certified green cleaning products and procedures. I am also writing to ask that you implement a written, comprehensive, and transparent green cleaning policy. This is important to me because many institutional cleaning products contain unnecessary toxic chemicals that can impair the development of a child's neurological, reproductive and respiratory systems.

I understand that Disney World has taken some steps in the right direction by switching some environmental preferable products and practices. I also understand that in May of 2008 all twenty-four Disney World hotel and resorts were certified through the Florida Green Lodging Program. This shows great progress in the issues around water and energy conservation, but this program is lacking in its green cleaning standards.

Children and pregnant women are at great risk from even one-time exposures to toxic cleaning product chemicals. Chemical exposures can cause brain damage or disorders such as autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and mental retardation. When children are exposed to toxic chemicals during development, they may also carry an increased risk of development.

In 2006, Philippe Grandjean, M.D., of Harvard, and Philip J. Landrigan, M.D., of Mount Sinai revealed that less than 50% of commonly used have been fully tested for their health impacts<sup>1</sup>, especially on a child's developing brain. They wrote in their study: "The vulnerability of the human nervous system and its special susceptibility during early development suggest that protection of the developing brain should be a paramount goal of public health protection. If a developmental process in the brain is halted or inhibited, there is little potential for later repair, and the consequences can therefore be permanent."

Workers' health, especially those of childbearing age or pregnant women, is also greatly affected because of their daily exposures. 25% of the toxic cleaning products used by the average janitor contain known hazardous chemicals that cause serious health problems. Companies have noted that worker productivity increases by as much as 30% after switching to green cleaning products, due in part to fewer sick days and on the job injuries.

Disney World has the chance to really lead the travel industry by implementing a written, comprehensive, and transparent green cleaning policy. I would not be asking you to do something that is not achievable. Today, hotels, schools, universities, cities, and New York State are all already using green cleaners because they are cost-competitive, available, and as effective than their toxic counterparts.

It is also important to me as a guest that all cleaning product and practice information be easily available on your hotel website and in written materials in your hotel.

Thank you for your time and thought on this important issue.

Sincerely,

---

<sup>1</sup> Grandjean P, et al "Development Neurotoxicity of Industrial Chemicals" Lancet 2006.