

To Whom it May Concern:

As a hotel visitor, I am writing to ask you to explore replacing the toxic cleaning products used in your hotels with certified green cleaning products and procedures. 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.

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 developing Parkinson's disease later in life.

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 impacts¹, 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.

That's why I am writing you today. Switching from toxic cleaning products in hotels to least-toxic green alternatives can drastically reduce unnecessary health risks. You can take one step and have a dramatic impact on the lives of so many.

The national Kimpton Hotel group and Fairmont Hotels and Resorts, as well as select Marriott Green Hotels are among those already using green cleaning products. Your hotel should be added to this growing list of environmentally friendly tourist destinations. Hotels using green cleaning products can apply to become a certified hotel under the Florida Environmental Lodging program, joining many hotels across the state.

I would not be asking you to explore green cleaning products if the switch was 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. Identifying green cleaners and vendors is easy using the Green Seal (www.greenseal.org) Environmental Standards for Lodging Properties, a system that helps hotels find and purchase green cleaners.

If you have any questions as you begin to explore green cleaning for your facility, feel free to contact the Center for Health, Environment and Justice².

Thank you for your consideration of this letter, and in advance for taking steps to protect the health of my family and your visitors.

Sincerely,

¹ Grandjean P, et al "Developmental neurotoxicity of industrial chemicals" *Lancet* 2006.

² Center for Health, Environment and Justice. www.chej.org (703) 237-2249