



Center for Health, Environment & Justice

PRESS RELEASE

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Race to the Green Cleaning Finish:

Activists Demonstrate Outside Disney World Annual Shareholder Meeting

Oakland, CA –Activists demonstrated outside the Walt Disney World Company’s annual shareholder meeting today to encourage the theme-park giant to implement a written, comprehensive, and transparent green cleaning policy at all Disney World parks and resorts.

The Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ) along with Disney World guests and employees have asked for the adoption of a Green Cleaning Policy for all Disney World parks, hotels and restaurants for the past three years.

As shareholders entered the annual meeting, activists handed out literature explaining how a comprehensive and transparent green cleaning policy has significant financial benefits through increased worker productivity and company-wide savings. Chronic exposure to toxic cleaning chemicals can lead to asthma, allergies, certain types of cancers (including brain cancer and leukemia), and learning and behavioral disorders, resulting in long term impacts, millions of missed school and work days each year, and increased health care costs.

Disney World Parks & Resorts has made progress since CHEJ began its Disney Go Green campaign by introducing some green cleaning products and reviewing current practices. “Disney World absolutely understands green cleaning. Since we began our campaign, they have made progress, but until Disney World shows real leadership and commitment by implementing a written and comprehensive green cleaning policy, their job isn’t done.” said Renée Blanchard, Program Coordinator at CHEJ.

CHEJ Executive Director Lois Gibbs explains, “As a major force in the tourism industry, Disney World is in the unique position to be a real leader in the issue of green cleaning. States and school districts are making true commitments by passing policies all across the country. Disney World guests and employees are frustrated with not having a more comprehensive green cleaning policy and today environmental health advocates are engaging the company creatively and enthusiastically to express that frustration.”

For activists, the cause was more personal: “I am here today because the summer trip to Disney World is a tradition in my family. I don’t want to worry that my six year old cousin’s asthma might be set off by toxic cleaning chemicals,” said 24 year old Robin Averback.

-For high resolution photographs of today’s demonstration, please contact mbulloch@chej.org-

About CHEJ

The Center for Health, Environment & Justice exists to mentor the movement to build healthier communities by empowering people to prevent harm in as many ways, and for as many people, as possible. We believe this can happen when people and groups have the power to play an integral role in promoting human health and environmental integrity. CHEJ's role is to provide the tools, the direction, and the encouragement to these people and groups, so that they can build strong, healthy communities where they live, work, learn, shop, play and pray. Following her successful effort to prevent further harm for the people living in contaminated Love Canal, Lois Gibbs founded CHEJ in 1981 in order to continue mentoring others seeking to prevent harm. CHEJ provides mentoring assistance to communities, homeowners, families and individuals throughout the country. To date, CHEJ has assisted over 10,000 groups nationwide. Currently, CHEJ is mentoring community groups in Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina and Ohio. Details on CHEJ's efforts to help people and communities prevent harm can be found at <http://chej.org/>.