

Submitter: Theodora Tsongas
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: HB3273

I am Dr. Theodora Tsongas, an environmental health scientist/epidemiologist with a career in public health and over 40 years experience evaluating the health effects of toxic substances. I support HB 3273, but oppose amendment A due to the need to reduce human exposures to halogenated solvents immediately. 5 years is too long to allow companies to continue to use dry cleaning solvents that are absorbed through the skin and can harm the health of persons who think their clothing is clean so will take no precautions to avoid exposure. Halogenated solvents, such as those containing chlorine or bromine have long been known to be toxic to humans; as a class they are known endocrine disruptors, that is, they disrupt hormone systems that direct the body's processes. For this reason I urge you to go with the original timeframe, 4 years, or even less, for industry to comply with this bill. Sooner just means fewer people will be exposed unknowingly to these toxic substances and fewer people will become ill as a result of that exposure. Thank you for your attention to my concerns.