



PEOPLE'S BILL OF RIGHTS

People in this country have the right to be safe and secure in their homes and workplaces. We have the right to bring up our children and live our lives free from harm imposed by toxic substances that have been brought into our communities, neighborhoods, workplaces, schools and farms by others, without our knowledge and without our consent. We have the right to clean air, clean water, uncontaminated food and safe places to live, work and play. We have the right to require our government to be accountable and industry to be responsible. We have the right to action and to public policy which will restore to us that which has been taken away and to stop the needless and unjustifiable attack on our lives, families, homes, jobs and future that come from the imposition of toxic substances in our environment.

- **RIGHT TO BE SAFE FROM HARMFUL EXPOSURE.** People have the inherent right to be safe in their homes and workplaces. Our children have the right to grow up strong and healthy, not diseased, deformed or to die before they've had a chance to live, to be safe in their schools, free from cancer-causing asbestos or other hazards, and to play in their backyards free from erupting chemical pits or contaminated soils. We have the right to be free from exposures, imposed on us against our will, to poisonous substances that can cause birth defects, cancer, sterility, genetic damage, miscarriages and still births.
- **RIGHT TO KNOW.** We have the right to know what poisons other people, industry, corporate polluters and government have decided to bring into our neighborhoods and workplaces and the right to know how these chemicals can adversely affect our health, our environment and exactly what they intend, if anything, to do about it.
- **RIGHT TO CLEAN UP.** We have the right to safe, total cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills, to have the cleanups take place quickly with our neighborhoods, homes and environment restored to the way it was before the polluters chose to contaminate them with chemical poisons.
- **RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE.** We have the right to participate, as equals, in decisions affecting our lives, children, homes and jobs on the matter of exposure to hazardous wastes. We have the right of access, without cost, to information and assistance that will make our participation meaningful and to have our needs and concerns be the major factor in all policy decisions.
- **RIGHT TO COMPENSATION.** We have the right to be compensated for damages to our health, our homes and our livelihoods. The responsible parties must compensate us for the cost of cancer treatments, care of our birth-defected children, the loss of our farms and jobs, livestock and the burial of our loved ones.
- **RIGHT TO PREVENTION.** We have the right to public policy that prevents toxic pollution from entering our neighborhoods by using existing technology beginning with reduction at the source--a technology that will provide jobs, business opportunities and conservation of valuable resources. Our workers have the right to safety equipment and other safety measures to prevent their exposure in the workplace.
- **RIGHT TO PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT.** We have the right to strong laws controlling toxic wastes and vigorous enforcement of those laws, not backroom, sweet-heart deals. If a child dies from exposure to chemical poisons in the environment, someone must be arrested and prosecuted for manslaughter.

(1986)

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