

SEIU California



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May 7, 2013

Senator Bill Monning
State Capitol Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 90301

e-mailed to Kathy.Smith@sen.ca.gov

Re: SB 193 - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Monning:

On behalf of SEIU California's over 700,000 workers, I write in support of SB 193.

Many of our members are environmental service workers, home care workers or healthcare workers who may come in contact with a wide array of toxic materials. SB 193 would provide us a better opportunity to know where these toxics are being used and the ability to better protect our members from exposure.

Current law requires HESIS to provide information of practical use to employers, employees, and others on toxic workplace hazards. But it does **not** give HESIS the ability to find out where any toxics are being used in California, thus undermining HESIS ability to provide early warnings. SB 193 would require chemical manufacturers and others in the chain of distribution to provide, upon written request, the names and addresses of customers who have purchased specified toxics or commercial products containing those toxics, **and** SB 193 also assures that the customer lists will remain confidential.

SB 193 assures that HESIS can reach and advise employers on measures needed to protect their workers, including information on safer alternatives, when HESIS has information regarding negative health impacts of certain toxic chemicals. HESIS will be able to target those at risk rather than merely posting its valuable guidance to limit exposure and prevent disease on the web with no guarantee it will reach those in need. As workers are often exposed to toxics whose health effects are not all known, HESIS's ability to act quickly and efficiently is vital to protect workers' health and safety.

We thank you for authoring this important bill. If you have any questions about our support for this legislation, please contact me at 916 769-4266 or snichols@seiucal.org.

Sincerely,

Sara S. Nichols
Legislative Advocate