



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 8, 2013

Contact: Andrew Behar, abehar@asyousow.org, (510) 735-8151

Environmental Health Group Urges Governor to Prioritize Citizen's Health by Strengthening California's Environmental, Consumer Protection Law

Oakland, CA-- As You Sow, an environmental advocacy organization that has been a [leading enforcer of Prop 65](#) since 1992 supports Governor Jerry Brown's intention to strengthen Proposition 65, California's the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, by improving the science, enforcement, and warning labels. However, As You Sow cautions that the Governor's proposed approach may undermine important provisions of the law that have protected millions of Californians from carcinogens and reproductive toxics in products including [laundry detergent](#), [portable classrooms](#), [children's jewelry](#), and [herbal supplements](#).

"Thanks to Proposition 65, California has become a safer and healthier state to live in," said Andrew Behar, CEO of [As You Sow](#). "Companies have removed carcinogens and toxic chemicals from their products and added warning labels for the California market. Also, funds from settlements have funded local groups to clean up toxic waste and educate the public. Prop 65 is a powerful statute created by Californians that has succeeded in keeping families and communities healthy for almost 30 years. We hope the Governor will make sure to keep it strong."

In a press statement, the Governor proposed a number of changes to Prop 65, including increased warning labels. However he has also proposed weakening the law by lowering the limits for some highly toxic chemicals, as well as limiting attorney's fees, and requiring more disclosure by plaintiffs.

As You Sow is particularly concerned that allowing higher levels of chemicals like lead, mercury, and arsenic that can cause cancer and reproductive health problems, would lead to more harmful products in our homes. Had the Governor's proposal been in force when As You Sow found high levels of formaldehyde in school classrooms, lead in vitamins, or toluene in nail polish, for example, people would have been exposed to far greater harm. Other proposed updates would strengthen the law, such as improved warnings labels to inform consumers about chemicals that may threaten their health.

"Californians deserve clear and informative warning labels on products that contain dangerous chemicals," said Danielle Fugere, President and Chief Counsel of As You Sow. "One sign at the entry to a store is not enough. We have the right to make informed choices about what we buy for our families and strengthening labeling is critical to making sure that Californians have that right."

###

As You Sow is a nonprofit organization that promotes environmental and social corporate responsibility through shareholder advocacy, coalition building, and innovative legal strategies. For more information visit www.asyousow.org.