

MS. SUWOL: Hi. Good afternoon. Thank you very

23 much for this opportunity and for holding this workshop

24 today and ability to comment. I was very moved by all the

25 heartfelt stories that have been told today.

1 And just as an introduction of who I am, my name
2 is Robina Suwol. I'm the founder and executive director
3 of a children's environmental health organization located
4 in southern California called California Safe Schools.

5 Sadly, today, as we all know, we live in an
6 environment where asthma and cancer and neurological
7 disorders and birth defects are really rampant.

8 Our 14th Amendment promises that everyone is
9 entitled to equal protection under the law. However, in
10 spite of really sincere efforts by various agencies and
11 the public and our government officials and
12 environmentalists, concerns remain for the health and
13 safety of all Californians, and especially for children
14 and families who are the most vulnerable. And those are
15 individuals who live in communities that are known as
16 environmental justice communities who consistently suffer
17 a disproportionate amount of toxins in their environment.

18 In the presentation today earlier, it was stated
19 that and I quote, "ARB conducts frequent, unannounced
20 inspections generally." And just for clarification, so
21 that I understand this, can you share -- obviously not
22 today -- in the past five years, for example, how many
23 unannounced inspections took place and their locations and
24 how many announced inspections took place and their
25 locations. It would just give some clarification on that

1 statement.

2 And can you also please expand on CARB's
3 process -- and this is specifically how are decisions made
4 regarding penalties and what role does the public and the
5 environmental justice groups play in the process or
6 discussion?

7 And then my next question is regarding consumer
8 products. Can you clarify CARB's process and time frame
9 for re-testing products that have been previously
10 reviewed? And I mention this because during our current
11 economic crisis, many companies are manufacturing their
12 products outside the county. So if you're talking about
13 household pesticides or air fresheners or cleaning
14 products, as examples, if they're manufactured in the
15 United States, they may contain specific ingredients.
16 Whereas, outside of the United States if they're
17 manufacture, they may have a completely different
18 formulation and VOC content.

19 And, finally, I just want to say that I'm
20 extremely encouraged -- although I know it's been
21 challenging today to hear all of these concerns that
22 people have about having this protocol and policy and
23 understanding how it's implemented, but I'm hopeful -- a
24 bruised optimist, but hopeful today's dialogue and
25 comments from industry and public and regulatory agencies



1 and environmentalists will help us all to continue to work
2 together to create policies and program that are more
3 protective for everyone, because this is proven. When we
4 can work together that great things can and do happen.

5 So thank you very much.