June 2, 2013

A.4822 (Sweeney)

Title: An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to regulation to cadmium-added novelty consumer products.

Purpose: This legislation would prohibit the sale of jewelry, toys or ornaments in which cadmium has been added intentionally during formation or manufacturing. Products containing 0.0075% cadmium (75 parts per million) will be prohibited after June 1, 2015. The legislation also requires manufacturers of such products to notify retailers and inform retailers how to safely dispose of existing inventory.

Statement of Support: Cadmium is a heavy metal that is highly malleable and resistant to corrosion. It is often used as an inexpensive component to children’s jewelry, toys and ornaments. However, it has also been known to cause negative health impacts such as cancer, kidney disease, damage to the central nervous system, and even reproductive failure and possibly infertility.

Recent testing has found alarming high levels of toxic cadmium in children’s jewelry on sale in the United States, including New York State. Yet the federal government has no restrictions on cadmium in jewelry and novelty products, despite its toxicity. This bill would address this oversight and would help protect the health and safety of children and consumers by prohibiting the inclusion of cadmium in jewelry, toys, and ornaments.

Restrictions on cadmium in consumer products have already been enacted in California, Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, and Washington.

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Strongly Urges Your Support Of A.4822