



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NEWTON

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July 9, 2011

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Representative Anne M. Gobi, Chair  
Senator Marc R. Pacheco, Chair  
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture  
The State House, Room 473F  
Boston, MA 02133

## ***Testimony in support of H-1136 & S-397, An Act for a Competitive Economy through Safer Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals***

Dear Representative Gobi, Senator Pacheco and members of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture:

The League of Women Voters of Newton strongly supports H-1136 and S-397, *An Act for a Competitive Economy through Safer Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals* (sponsored by Representative Jay Kaufman & Senator Steven Tolman), and we urge your committee to give this bill a favorable report. The proposed legislation takes a pragmatic approach to the reduction of toxic chemicals used in Massachusetts by creating a program to replace them with safer alternatives when feasible. This bill will help our families and communities by reducing toxic chemical exposure and its associated emotional and financial costs due to illnesses and the hospitalizations, medications and lost workdays they require.

This legislation will allow Massachusetts to be a leader in ensuring the health and safety of its citizens, protecting the environment, and reducing costs to businesses, while at the same time promoting globally competitive innovation. Therefore, the bill ought to be a very high priority for our government leaders. Again, we ask you to grant the proposed legislation a favorable report and provide leadership among your colleagues to pass H-1136 and S-397 this session.

Sincerely,

*Anne Borg & Sue Flicop*

Anne Borg and Sue Flicop  
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of Newton

Cc: Senator Cynthia Creem  
Representative Ruth Balsler  
Representative Kay Khan  
Representative John Lawn