Note from Erin

This past year, Women’s Voices for the Earth (WVE) launched a new campaign around the sensitive issue of toxics in feminine products. The truth is: WVE has never been afraid to tackle the issues no one else wants to talk about. It’s not an issue that hordes of foundations are racing to address, nor one that men in Congress are clamoring to solve. But it affects nearly 100% of the population we serve. Women have a right to know exactly what they are putting into their bodies, and the right to be angry when companies refuse to tell them. They should know that every ingredient being used near this sensitive region of the body has been fully evaluated for safety—not tested on their bodies. That’s why WVE took on the $3 billion feminine products industry, with all its baggage, cultural hang-ups, and the safe harbor provided by mainstream media’s general tendency to ignore this topic. Thank you for joining us.

Together, we can clean up this industry, too.

Warmly,

Erin Switalski,
Executive Director
Dawn Marino

And we’re not just shifting the way major companies do business. Women’s economic power competes with two of the biggest retailers in the country to make some serious changes:

• Walmart announced that they’re banning a list of 10 toxic chemicals from all products on their shelves (we haven’t seen the list yet, but we’ll keep you posted) and increasing ingredient transparency in products like cleaners, cosmetics, and personal care products.

• Right on their heels, Target announced a new sustainability policy that will rate products based on whether or not they list all ingredients, use safer chemicals and sustainable packaging, and more.

WeE Launches New Campaign: DETOX THE BOX

Toxic chemicals don’t belong in feminine products. Period.

Last November, we unveiled our newest and edgier campaign yet: Detox the Box, at eliminating toxic chemicals from feminine products. We catapulted this issue into the media with the release of our groundbreaking report on toxic chemicals in feminine products – and we’re taking this issue straight to the halls of Congress. We’re a proud supporter of the Robin Danielson Act, introduced by Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) in May. The bill requires the National Institutes of Health to conduct research on the risks posed by the presence of chemical fragrances, synthetic fibers, and chemicals like diode in tampons, pads, and menstrual cups. You can ask your Representative to support the Robin Danielson Act on our website at www.womensvoices.org.

Talking Tampons in Congress

We’re leading the way in new research on toxic chemicals in feminine products, and we’re taking this issue straight to the halls of Congress. We’re a proud supporter of the Robin Danielson Act, introduced by Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) in May. The bill requires the National Institutes of Health to conduct research on the risks posed by the presence of chemical fragrances, synthetic fibers, and chemicals like diode in tampons, pads, and menstrual cups. You can ask your Representative to support the Robin Danielson Act on our website at www.womensvoices.org.

Telling Tampons and Always to Detox the Box

True to VWE style, we decided to target the biggest manufacturers of tampons and pads out there, Tampons and Always, to demand that they make their products safer for the millions of women using them by listing all ingredients and removing toxic chemicals.

We know that no one wants to talk about pads and tampons in polite company, much less about harmful chemicals in those products and what they could be doing to our bodies.

We needed a fun way to get this serious message across.

Enter our latest and greatest spoof video.

Women’s Voices for the Earth was born out of the idea that women have tremendous social, political, and economic power to shifting the way companies do business. Our mission is to use that power to eliminate toxic chemicals from all products on our shelves (we haven’t seen the list yet, but we’ll keep you posted) and increasing ingredient transparency in products like cleaners, cosmetics, and personal care products.

Companies that actually care about your health

We’re highlighting companies committed to making safer, transparent products we believe in giving women solutions to reduce their exposure to toxic chemicals. We also believe in building a greener economy, built on honesty and trust, and in highlighting those companies that are committed to protecting women’s health. That’s why we launched our No Secrets program for cleaning our feminine-care products. No Secrets is a group of companies that list all ingredients, right down to the fragrance, and have committed to making safer products.

Check them out at www.womensvoices.org/avoid/toxic-chemicals/no-secrets-safety-products/.

We’re grateful for the following donations received during the 2013 fiscal year.

Every contribution, regardless of size, makes a meaningful difference in the success and reach of our work. We are grateful for the following donations received during the 2013 fiscal year.

We’re thankful for the following companies who partnered with us in the inaugural year of our Business Partners Program.

Telling Tampons and Always to Detox the Box

“Detox the Box” is not only hilarious and catchy (we spotted Timberlake’s uber-popular Saturday Night Live skit “Dick in a Box!”) — it also sends a hard-hitting message to the biggest consumer product company on the planet, Procter & Gamble, that women no longer stand for toxic chemicals in products we use on some of the most absorptive skin on our bodies. Watch and share “Detox the Box”: www.womensvoices.org/DetoxTheBox.

No secrets
TOP NEW RESOURCES FOR AVOIDING TOXIC CHEMICALS

- Tips to Avoid Toxic Chemicals Before, During, and After Pregnancy
- Baby Non-Toxic Shopping Guide
- Hair Straightening Products Containing Formaldehyde
- Toxic Chemicals in Salon Products: What Salon Customers Need to Know
- Cosmetics Companies Hiding Toxic Chemicals

Find them at WWW.WOMENSVOICES.ORG/AVOID-TOXIC-CHEMICALS

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