



# Toxics Use Reduction – a perspective from hindsight

Stephen Greene For TURI November 4, 2009



#### Overview

- Personal involvement in the negotiations 1988
- TURA and TWRP were important business issues
- Digital
- Polaroid
- Looking back



#### The base issue

- For Digital it was a competitive issue for a Massachusetts based company
- The potential operational impacts
- For Polaroid, TURA was already part of Polaroid's TWRP (Toxic Waste Reduction Program)
- For both, Intellectual Property and business impact were concerns

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# The Challenge for a MA based Company

- A single state law puts a company at a disadvantage in a national or global economy
- The more information that is required, the greater the risks that critical IP will be compromised
- Politics and legislation are a slow, painfull process

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# Looking back

- REACH and TSCA reform have us in a much different place
- In their days, waste minimization, EPCRA/TRI and Montreal Protocol were significant steps
- Change is hard especially if you are invested in the past



#### Business success

- Businesses need to sell products or services
- The conflicting issues of
  - the level playing field
  - Not in my neighborhood or state
  - Off shoring of production



# Politics is a Contact Sport

- Initial environmental regulations were reactionary and media specific
- Fostered an end of pipe approach
- Take it out of here but don't put it there
- TURA started us on the path to examining the process



# TURA – a new approach

- While TURA is a law and corresponding legislation it did -
- Created OTA and TURI as non regulatory assistance and research groups



# Digital and TURA

- Was a good corporate citizen before it knew what it meant.
- Negotiated because of the potential business impact in Mass
- TURA was an initiative occurring at a time that favored initiatives.
- TURA was not something DEC would have initiated



#### Polaroid and TURA

- Polaroid was already ahead of TURA with its Toxic Waste Reduction Program –TWRP
- TWRP was fairly complicated, used indexes to protect IP/business info but show progress
- Recognized the importance and limits substitutes
- Included design and related manufacturing
- Had a significant budget



# Polaroid and TURA (con't)

- TWRP had an expert team and significant staff
- TURA was an additional cost and reporting requirement
- TURA Fees were about \$200K per year and staff requirements were about the same



# TURA – the good and the bad

- Forced a thorough look at the production process
- Planning and review were part of the system
- Lost ground when planning become the objective until ammendments
- The fees have become a "tax"



#### TURA Blue Ribbon Panel

- Slow to recognize that there is more than toxic chemicals to worry about
- Business needs to be competitive
- Chemicals were not the only impact



#### REACH

- One of the issues that kept bubbling up in TURA discussions was toxics in products.
- What ever the solution, it needs to be broad at the national and preferably international level and deal with IP
- The EU REACH regulation is another example of regulating the product, rather than the process



### Thank You for your time

- We have come a long way but the journey has just begun
- Questions?



#### **Contact**

# Stephen Greene Howland Greene Consultants LLC Lowell, MA

978-703-1283 sgreene@howlandgreene.com