

VALLEY PLATING, INC.

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E0562 Input, c/o Kathleen Kerigan
Mass Dep
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

December 15, 2015

Dear Ms. Kerigan,

We are very pleased with Governor Baker's common sense executive order # 562 relating to reviewing existing regulations as to their effectiveness and their financial impact on businesses in Massachusetts. This is especially true of the TURA regulations which have been around now for 26 years which for the past 20 years have had a negative financial impact on select Massachusetts businesses while yielding little to no environmental improvements.

Valley Plating, Inc. is located in Springfield MA and has been in business for 35 years providing metal finishing services to the military and aerospace industries. The types of finishes provided are for specific engineering characteristics to which cooperate and military specifications mandate the use of specific toxic chemistries. The company provides a safe stable working environment for approx. 100 employees to which many have been with the company for over 20 years.

Regarding the TURA Regulation; we should be reminded that when the regulation was originally conceived in 1987, it was designed to be a 5 year program. Obviously, that did not happen. What we have now is an entrenched bureaucracy that is nothing but an unnecessary financial burden on select Massachusetts businesses that as previously stated no longer yields any environmental benefits. A big problem associated with this situation is that many state politicians will not vote their conscious to eliminate some if not all of the regulatory requirements fearing they will be perceived as being not environmentally friendly to which may jeopardize their chances for reelection.

I feel compelled to stress the fact that we all embrace the concept of Toxic Use Reduction which is synonymous with waste minimization. You need to understand that the ongoing accomplishments in industry associated with Toxic Use Reduction is the result of sound business practices in the private sector and nothing to do with the regulatory requirements mandated by the TURA Program.

There have been several dramatic changes that have occurred over the years that have forced private industries to adopt lean technologies which include eliminating waste. Those changes include but are not limited to:

- A global market whereby unlike years ago, you can't only be concerned about your competitor in the next State. You now have to be concerned about competitors half way around the world.
- Recent recessions have created a situation whereby private businesses have to adopt and implement lean programs just to stay in business.

The point being, we do not need a State bureaucracy to show and tell us not to be wasteful.

When the TURA program started, there were over 1000 filers. Today there are less than 500 companies that are regulated by this program even with the established higher hazard substance list of 7 chemicals. Where did they go? It's safe to assume that unfortunately some went out of business and many left for greener financial pastures. In fact, two long time Massachusetts industries in our neighborhood recently announced they were moving their manufacturing operations out of the state due in part to regulatory costs in Massachusetts.

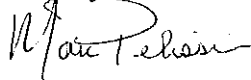
Why should TURA filers tolerate the fact that the Toxic Use Reduction Institute is investing resources with programs for the medical industry, nail salons and municipalities? Why is money generated from TURA filers being spent to support these programs? Why are TURI employees attending expensive conferences throughout the county and in some cases out of the country?

At present Valley Plating, Inc.'s annual TUR form S fee is \$7,400.00. When we include the costs associated with filing and the annual training costs, it equates to approx. \$10,000.00. This is unsettling when you consider states like Connecticut and New Hampshire to which are home to several of our direct competitors are doing as good if not better than Massachusetts regarding Toxic Use Reduction based on byproduct reduction index. The difference being, we have an annual \$10,000.00 expense and they don't. The problem is; **we get nothing in return.** We would much rather use the money for continued process improvement that ultimately yields more sales and the hiring of more people.

In summary, it is clear to Valley Plating, Inc. and the majority of TURA filers throughout the state that the regulation has run its course and needs to be phased out. Maintaining this regulation simply to provide continued employment for select DEP personnel is unjust and unfair to select Massachusetts businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely



Marc Pelissier: Environmental Manager

Cc: Richard Waterhouse: VP Valley Plating, Inc.
Deneen Simpson: Mass DEP

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