

**Business Council on Indoor Air  
State and Local Affairs**

**PROPOSAL**

**Introduction**

In the short time since its inception in 1988, the Business Council on Indoor Air (BCIA) has established itself as one of industry's most credible voices as indoor air quality legislation and regulation are debated in the nation's capitol.

- o A recent BCIA legislative seminar attracted more than 80 representatives of Congressional offices, federal agencies, labor unions, trade association and businesses from the chemical, energy, consumer goods, furnishings and construction industries.
- o Major trade associations -- notably the Chemical Manufacturers Association -- cite BCIA efforts as evidence of industry action on the IAQ issue.
- o BCIA representatives routinely are invited to testify before Congressional committees, and asked to contribute to IAQ matters before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Consumer Product Safety Commission and Occupational Safety and Health Administration. BCIA was commended by Rep. Henry Waxman, chairman of the House Health Subcommittee, for its testimony at recent hearings. Other prominent Members of Congress -- notably House Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell -- regularly consult with BCIA officials on IAQ matters.
- o BCIA publications are read by more than 4,500 business leaders in 25 industries nationwide.

With its federal program firmly in place, BCIA now plans to contribute to the IAQ debate in key states, localities and in the news media.

In what may be a glimpse into the future, the director of the Rhode Island Committee on Occupational Safety and Health, James Celenza, called for states to take the initiative on IAQ standards and not wait on federal action.

The fact is, as of March 31 of this year, 13 bills and two regulations related to IAQ were pending in eight states including California, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, Texas and Rhode Island. Eight of the 13 bills would regulate IAQ in publicly-owned and used facilities. However, more than one-third require detailed reports on the issue to state legislatures and regulations affecting workplaces. Three would set up permanent agencies and two call for lists of hazardous substances. (see attachment)

Determining local interest in the issue is beyond our resources at present. However, if the IAQ issue follows the same course as other environmental concerns, we may well expect heavy local involvement in such states as California, Massachusetts and Oregon.

The news media regularly covers the issue and appears to be building an environment for greater regulation.

To deal with the emerging state and local legislative challenge and the news media, BCIA proposes the formation of an Expert Witnesses Panel and consideration of a California Business Council on Indoor Air, as the first of what could be several state chapters of the organization.

**Proposal****Expert Witnesses Panel**

This panel will be comprised of qualified volunteers from the BCIA Board of Directors and Technical Committee. Panel members will:

- a) Testify before state and local legislative and regulatory bodies
- b) Brief individual elected and appointed officials
- c) Participate in interviews, talk shows
- d) Make presentations to business groups

In order to administer this program, BCIA will:

- a) Establish a travel expenses fund for the use of those panel members requiring assistance. BCIA members will be asked to each contribute at least \$1000 to establish this fund.
- b) Monitor state and local legislative and regulatory matters and identify those which require attention.
- c) Draft basic testimony and presentations for panel members to be modified according to local need
- d) Seek appropriate news media opportunities and coordinate media requests for interviews.
- e) Schedule and otherwise coordinate the activities of panel members.
- f) Report on Panel activities to the BCIA Board.

California Business Council on Indoor Air

Although other states are considering more individual pieces of IAQ legislation, California commonly leads the way with the most ambitious and visible measures.

BCIA proposes that a three-person committee be appointed by the Board Chairman to consider the feasibility of establishing a state-level organization to deal with the emerging IAQ issue there.

The committee will be asked to consider the following:

1. Status of the issue in California, including the degree of state and local legislative and regulatory interest, special interests now debating the question, media interest.
2. Opportunities for BCIA to contribute to the debate.
3. Potential membership base.
4. Physical needs of a state organization, including office, staff, equipment, travel budget, etc.
5. Existing BCIA resources which might defray state organization costs.
6. Organizational relationship to BCIA.

The committee will be asked to submit its report by August 30, 1991.