



Dear Friend:

This week the House passed H.R. 365, a bill I cosponsored and helped usher through the Science Committee, which will aid communities across Oregon in the clean up methamphetamine labs and the toxic mess they leave behind. It charges the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the development of health-based guidelines to assist state and local authorities in cleaning up former meth lab sites.

Methamphetamine is a serious threat to public health and safety not only because of the highly addictive nature of the drug and what it does to the user, but also the ease of production and the danger of toxic chemicals used to manufacture it. These toxic chemicals can cause significant property damage, from residual contamination in the floors and walls of a house, to fires and even deadly explosions.

Chemicals used to make meth are highly flammable and toxic. It is estimated that for every pound of meth produced, five or six pounds of toxic waste are produced as well. And a meth addict doesn't care where these toxic chemicals end up, often dumping the waste down the drain or onto the ground, leaving it to contaminate the community's soil or water supply.

H.R. 365, the Methamphetamine Remediation Act of 2007, addresses the clean-up needs of the dangerous, often hidden, life-threatening residues that meth labs regularly leave behind. Specifically, H.R 365:

- Requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop model, voluntary, health-based clean-up guidelines for use by states and localities;
- Authorizes the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to initiate a research program to develop meth detection equipment for field use; and
- Requires a study by the National Academy of Sciences on the long-term health impact of exposure to meth labs on children and first-responders.

This bill will now go to the Senate for further action.

Throughout my years in public service, I don't think that I've ever seen a problem as pervasive or as damaging as the methamphetamine scourge that is sweeping our country. Last year, I authored significant portions of the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act, major anti-meth legislation which includes a number of important meth precursor controls; be assured that I will continue to work in the new Congress to combat meth use and production that threaten our local communities.

Sincerely,

Darlene Hooley
Member of Congress