

MINUTES OF MEETING - ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC RESOURCES - 56TH ASSEMBLY SESSION

MARCH 9, 1971

PRESENT: Homer, Swackhamer, Ronzqne, Lowman, Getto, Fry and Dini

ABSENT: Bryan and Olsen

OTHERS: Assemblyman Randall Capurro and Daisy Talvitie representing the League of Women Voters.

Chairman Homer called the meeting to order at 8:10 A.M. for the purpose of discussing A.B. 10, A.B. 295 and A.B. 344. Upon opening, he commented that none of these bills are strong enough. They don't do the job. But, he believed that any of them would be a step in the right direction. The only way the environment can really be properly affected is to acutally outlaw detergents.

Assemblyman Capurro introduced A.B. 295 and he was present to speak. He stated that this bill would immediately limit the phosphate content down to 8.7 and by July 1, 1972, there will be no phosphates. It is a sort of phasing out period. He added that the 8.7 figure was not arbitrary. Almost every detergent now meets that standard with the exception of Tide. He went on to say that phosphate is the "whiter and brighter" part of a detergent. Clothes still get just as clean. A phosphate content in a detergent is not a necessary ingredient for the cleaning process. Phosphate is a chemical that no matter what method is used, it will remain in the water. At this point, Chairman Homer questioned what would be used as a substitute if phosphates were prohibited. Mr. Capurro said that there would not need to be any substitute as phosphates are not necessary in the cleaning process. Chairman Homer's concern stemmed from the fact that when alkyl benzene sulfonate (ABS) was prohibited, it was substituted with LAS which is more highly toxic. Daisy Talvitie representing the League of Women Voters was opposed to this bill. She said that phosphates are not extremely harmful to health and the difficulty of outlawing phosphates so rapidly is that there is not yet a substitute and the risk is being run that something may be substituted which would be much more dangerous. She also said that detergents are not the only source of phosphates in the water. The idea of these bills is to force the merchants to do something about this problem. She was questioning if this bill is getting to the heart of the problem. Mr. Swackhamer concurred with her here that this bill does not refer to water softeners. It was decided that Mr. Swackhamer would check this out and the bill would be further discussed at a later date.

In regard to A.B. 10, Mr. Capurro stated that this type of legislation is not new. A.B. 10 reads "Requires reports concerning nondegradable detergents and prohibits their use." Four states around the Great Lakes have already adopted this type of legislation. Chairman Homer added that A.B. 10 is the Wisconsin law and Wisconsin senators are now trying to adopt new legislation which would be stronger. It was decided that further discussion would continue on this bill at a later date.

A.B. 344 which "Requires warning on box of detergent containing phosphorus." then came up for discussion. Chairman Homer personally felt that this would do about as much good as it did on packages of cigarettes. Mr. Swackhamer commented that there would be a difficulty in as much as the manufacturer certainly will not cooperate with just the State of Nevada. He felt it really would not be too practical. It would be alright on the manufacturer's level but not on the state level. He did feel that if it would actually do some good that noone would mind doing it. Mr. Fry moved to "do kill" A.B. 344. Lowman seconded. Motion carried.

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A.J.R. 3 was then discussed. It "Proposes constitutional amendment to add environmental bill of rights." Mr. Lowman commented that he is one of the sponsors of this bill because he feels it is a statement of policy. Mr. Getto felt it certainly opens the door to a lot of lawsuits. He moved to "do kill" A.J.R. 3. Mr. Fry seconded. Motion was carried with Mr. Lowman voting "no".

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 A.M.

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AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC RESOURCES

Date MARCH 9, 1971 Time 8:00 A.M. Room 214

<u>Bills or Resolutions to be considered</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Counsel requested*</u>
<u>A.B. 10</u>	<u>Requires reports concerning nondegradable detergents and prohibits their use.</u>	
<u>A.B. 295</u>	<u>Limiting sale of detergents containing phosphates.</u>	
<u>A.B. 344</u>	<u>Requires warning on box of detergent containing phosphorus.</u>	

*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.

HEARINGS PENDING

Date _____ Time _____ Room _____
Subject _____

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