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June 10, 2009

Susan M. Lessard, Chair
Board of Environmental Protection
c/o Terry Hanson
#17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

RE: Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity for Intervention
In the Matter of the Appeal to the Maine Board of Environmental Protection of the
Designation of Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Site and Order regarding
Holtrachem Manufacturing Facility
Orrington, Penobscot County, Maine

Dear Chairperson Lessard,

We write to you today in order to petition on behalf of the Maine People's Alliance (MPA) for full intervenor status in the above stated proceeding, pursuant to 5 MRSA §9054. As described more fully below, MPA has a long-held stake in the outcome of the hearing, MPA and its members may be substantially and directed by the proceeding, and our testimony is necessary for a well-rounded discussion of the proposed remedy.

MPA's staff and membership has been involved with the site at Orrington since 1988 when MPA identified the facility as a polluter in dire need of reprimand from the state. After HoltraChem purchased the plant in 1994, MPA increased its efforts to force the issue of investigation and cleanup of both the site and industry practice. These have included testimony before the state legislature in regards to legislation that would remove HoltraChem's exemption from a state law prohibiting the discharge of mercury, the commission of an aquatic ecologist to study the down river effects, a lawsuit in US District Court under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act against Mallinckrodt and HoltraChem, mobilization of public support to ensure that the leftover mercury was properly retired, and other actions deemed necessary to make sure this process was carried out with the citizens of Orrington and other down-river towns in mind. It has been a full ten years to the month since MPA filed its notice of intent to sue Mallinckrodt and HoltraChem in federal court, which that continues to this day. In addition to this history, we currently have over 130 member households in Orrington and thousands more in communities that lie downstream from the former HoltraChem site.

If given leave to intervene in these proceedings, MPA will continue to provide citizen testimony as well as historic perspective to this pollution problem that has dragged on for decades. We intend to bring voices before the Board that will speak to the egregious nature of the pollution that remains on site, the willingness of numerous Orrington residents to allow the excavation of the landfills and transportation of contaminated soils through their town, and the urgency with which these actions are requested.



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If more information is needed please do not hesitate to contact Ryan Tipping-Spitz at our Bangor office by telephone or by mail.

Respectfully,

Jesse Graham
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