September 11, 2018

Via Electronic Mail: P65Public.Comments@oehha.ca.gov

Mailing Address: Michelle Ramirez
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
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Sacramento, California 95812-4010
Street Address: 1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Proposed Listing of Nickel and Nickel Compounds as a Reproductive and Developmental Toxicant under Proposition 65

Dear Ms. Ramirez:

In July 2018, California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) issued a hazard identification document entitled "Evidence on the Developmental and Reproductive Toxicity of Nickel and Nickel Compounds."

The OEHHA document describes the evidence of developmental and reproductive toxicity of nickel and nickel compounds that will be considered by the Developmental and Reproductive Toxicant Identification Committee (DARTIC) in October 2018 when deciding on the listing of these substances as developmental or reproductive toxicants under Proposition 65.

We support the scientific comments submitted under separate cover by the Nickel Producers Environmental Research Association (NiPERA), and emphasize the following key points, in particular:

- A thorough examination of the evidence of potential developmental and reproductive toxicity effects of nickel and nickel compounds indicates that the only effects that have been clearly shown through scientifically valid testing according to generally accepted principles are the developmental toxicity effects observed in animal studies with soluble nickel compounds.

- There is no clear evidence that nickel metal or insoluble nickel compounds cause developmental toxicity effects, and there is no clear evidence that nickel metal or soluble or insoluble nickel compounds cause any male or female reproductive effects. Furthermore, while statistical associations between developmental effects and nickel exposure have been purported in some large general public studies, the effects have not been demonstrated in workers' studies with much higher air exposure levels and the power to detect these effects.

- The DARTIC may consider the scientific justification for listing only soluble nickel compounds under Prop 65, and if so only for developmental effects based on animal evidence, as the relevance of animal study results to humans is unclear. Nickel metal and insoluble nickel compounds should not be listed for developmental or female or male reproductive effects.

In summary, the undersigned organizations urge OEHHA and the DARTIC to consider listing of nickel substances based on whether they meet scientifically valid criteria for reproductive and developmental toxicity.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council
Copper & Brass Fabricators Council
National Association for Surface Finishing
Nickel Institute
Metal Finishing Association of Northern California
Metal Finishing Association of Southern California
Plumbing Manufacturers Institute
Precision Machined Products Association
Precision Metalforming Association
Specialty Steel Industry of North America