



Riverkeeper 2020 Legislative Memorandum

Support - S.6829B/A.8829A (Kaminsky/Englebright)

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting certain uses of trichloroethylene

Riverkeeper strongly supports the passage of S.6829A/A.8829A (Kaminsky/Englebright), which would prohibit the use of trichloroethylene (TCE) as a vapor degreaser, an intermediate chemical to produce other chemicals, a refrigerant, an extraction solvent, or in any other manufacturing or cleaning process or use beginning December 1, 2021. TCE is an industrial cleaning and degreasing agent that readily evaporates into the atmosphere and is easily transported into groundwater. TCE is extremely toxic, carcinogenic and long term exposure is strongly linked to various types of cancer including kidney, lymphoma, testicular, and leukemia.¹

TCE has affected communities across the nation but most recently has received significant attention for the contamination crisis occurring in Bethpage, NY.² Grumman, an aerospace company operated a facility that used TCE to clean aircraft parts for 40 years and has been contaminating the areas groundwater with TCE since the 1970s. The contamination has resulted in a groundwater plume 4/1 miles long, 2.4 miles wide and as deep as 900 feet in an aquifer that is the only drinking water source for the densely populated Long Island region. Currently, the TCE contamination is present in pretreated water at levels over a thousand times above state drinking water standard. NY's Superfund program has classified the pollution as a "significant threat to public health or the environment."

Riverkeeper strongly supports the banning of TCE use across the state to ensure this environmental crisis never occurs again.

Riverkeeper strongly supports - S.6829B/A.8829A (Kaminsky/Englebright)

¹ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. *TRICHLOROETHYLENE (TCE) TOXICITY*
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hec/csem/tce/docs/tce.pdf>

² Paul LaRocco and David M. Schwartz. *The Grumman Plume Decades of Deceit*, NEWSDAY.
<https://projects.newsday.com/long-island/plume-grumman-navy/>