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Microwave News Responds to Mike Repacholi

In his November 15 response to *Microwave News*, Mike Repacholi does not point to a single factual error in our November 13 "News and Comment" on his consulting work for two U.S. electric utilities. Notably, Repacholi does not challenge that:

- He misrepresented the conclusions of the expert panel he assembled to complete the WHO's Environmental Health Criteria on power-frequency EMF health risks, as pointed out by NIEHS Associate Director Chris Portier;
- Up to half, if not more, of the WHO's EMF project's funding came from industry.

Repacholi states that he always followed the WHO rules on funding and that, "NO funds were EVER sent to me." [His emphasis.]

This is financial legerdemain. As *Microwave News* has previously reported, Repacholi arranged for the industry money to be sent to the Royal Adelaide Hospital in Australia, where he used to work. The funds were then transferred to the WHO. Seven years ago, Norm Sandler, a Motorola spokesman, told us that, "This is the process for all the supporters of the WHO program." At the time, Motorola was sending Repacholi \$50,000 each year. That money is now bundled with other industry contributions and sent to Australia by the Mobile Manufacturers Forum (MMF), which gives the project \$150,000 a year.

"What is the difference between sending money directly to the WHO and sending it via Australia?," we asked Repacholi last December. He never responded. We don't think there is any difference. We don't understand how the WHO can see this as anything other than money laundering. On numerous occasions we have asked Repacholi to reveal all the sources of the funding of the WHO EMF project. He has consistently refused.

With respect to Repacholi's and Peter Valberg's failure to cite the increase in acoustic neuroma among those who had used mobile phones for ten years or more in their paper in *Environmental Health Perspective*, Repacholi explains that their paper was about mobile phone base stations not the phones themselves.

Once again, Repacholi is dissembling. This is what he and Valberg wrote:

"For example, the risk of acoustic neuroma in relation to mobile phone use has been assessed via six population-based, shared-protocol, case-control studies in four Nordic countries and the U.K. The authors concluded that there was no association of risk with duration of use, lifetime cumulative hours of use or number of calls, for phone use overall or for analogue or digital phones separately (Schoemaker et al. 2005)."

Much of this text is adapted from the Schoemaker abstract. The *very next* sen-

(continued on p.2)

tence of the abstract is:

“Risk of a tumour on the same side of the head as reported phone use was raised for use for 10 years or longer (OR=1.8, 95% CI: 1.1-3.1).” [*British Journal of Cancer*, 93, p.842, 2005.]

This is the most “disquieting finding” that Repacholi and Valberg chose to ignore.

Repacholi calls us “hypocritical” for accusing him of using an unreleased report in his testimony for the two electric utilities. We did not make this accusation. As we clearly stated in our article, it was a group of well-known EMF researchers who raised an objection.

Finally, Repacholi would have us believe that he and his staff served only as the secretariat for all the meetings that the WHO project hosted over the years.

More nonsense. Mike Repacholi *was* the EMF project. He was in total control. He was the conductor who orchestrated all the key decisions. For instance, it was Repacholi who flip-flopped over applying the precautionary principle to EMF health risks. And, of course, it was Repacholi who decided who would be invited to all those meetings.

Repacholi writes that: “To say that I am or was ever influenced by industry in any way is completely ludicrous.” Those of us who have watched Repacholi sell out the public health at the WHO for the last ten years know just how ridiculous that statement is.

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