

December 19, 2002

Voice of the People
The Capital Times
P.O. Box 8060
Madison, WI 53708-8060

Dear Editor:

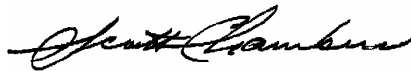
I'm writing on behalf of the Tin Stabilizers Association (TSA), to correct some information in a recent article about artificial Christmas trees ("Dry Spell Didn't Boost Holiday Tree Prices" published 11/30/02).

The article suggests that artificial trees contain "possible metal toxins" including organotins. Tin stabilizers – part of a family of products known as organotins – are, in fact, used in these vinyl trees, but their presence does not pose a danger to consumers.

Tin stabilizers have been safely used in vinyl products for more than 50 years. They have been carefully studied and found to be safe when used appropriately. In fact, the use of tin stabilizers in critical applications such as food and pharmaceutical packaging and potable water pipes has been cleared by government agencies throughout the world, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and NSF International.

Artificial Christmas trees have many benefits to consumers. They are flame retardant and many are made of recycled content, which saves resources. Consumers should feel confident purchasing and displaying artificial Christmas trees without any concern for their health and safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Chambers". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Scott Chambers
President