

I was truly shocked that a State Representative would wear a replica of a hormonal producing IUD. Most of us know about the serious side effects of these hormones, but the environmentalists are silent on the ecological effects of estrogenic steroids. These hormones are a pollutant just like DDT or PCB's. The estrogens that are excreted in the environment are called endocrine-disrupting chemicals or EDC's. EDC's interfere with the endocrine systems of both humans and animals. These EDC's cannot be filtered out of wastewater.

In 2005 EPA funded scientists at the University of Colorado studied fish in Boulder Creek and found 123 trout and other fish downstream from the city's sewer plant. They found 101 were female, 12 were male, and 10 were strange intersex fish with male and female features. "The main culprits were found to be estrogens and other steroid hormones from birth control pills and patches that ultimately ended up in the creek after being excreted in urine into the city's sewers. One study in New Brunswick by the Canadian Rivers Institute found that entire species of fish were exterminated in a large lake because all of the male fish had become feminized." A study by the University of Aberdeen found that sheep that grazed on land fertilized with sewage sludge had a high rate of abnormalities in the testes, ovaries, uteri, brains and thyroid and adrenal glands. These problems were attributed to high levels of hormones found in the Pill, the patch, implants and hormone loaded IUD's.

Where are the environmentalists, when a recent Gallup poll rated the pollution of our water the highest concern of those polled, and global warming the lowest of their concerns? "Betty Ball of the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center said, asking people to stop polluting water with hormones "gets into the bedroom." She said, I'm not going there, this involves people's personal lives, childbearing issues, sex lives and personal choices."

Curt Cunningham, water quality issues chairman for the Rocky Mountain Chapter of Sierra Club International, said that people "would not take kindly" to the suggestion of banning or restricting hormonal contraceptives. He added: "For many people it is an economic necessity. It's also a personal freedom issue." In other words the environmental issue about clean water must take second place.

According to the data released in 2008, by the federal Centers for Disease Control, we have 19.7 million new venereal infections every year, bringing the total number of STI's in the U.S. to 110, 197,000. We are creating new STI's faster than new jobs or college grads. These STI's are costing us \$16 billion a year. How are these IUD's going to cut down STI's?

It seems to me that we are making objects out of girls and women, and users out of boys and men, instead of true lovers, who respect girls and women.

Maybe we should spend the \$5 million teaching students in our schools character education and respect for each other, and remove the promiscuous sex educators to lower our disease rate, and our birthrate to unwed mothers, instead of promoting sex among students and wearing replicas of IUD's on our lapels and earrings.

Please vote "no" on HB-1194.

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