

Dear Representative Tarr:

As a firefighter, I support House Bill 27, known as the "Toxic-Free Firefighters and Children Act." House Bill 27 would make it illegal to manufacture, sell, or distribute new products in Alaska with certain flame-retardant chemicals, including products with organohalogen flame retardants. The bill also requires manufactures to label products with flame retardant chemicals.

Tragically, many of the chemicals used to make products less flammable become toxic when they burn. Exposing us to these cancer-causing chemicals puts us at undue risk, especially because there are now safer alternatives available for manufacturers to use that don't risk people lives

According to the International Association of Fire Fighters, occupational-related cancers now account for more than half of fire fighters' line-of-duty deaths each year and cancer-causing chemicals are the largest health-related issue facing the firefighting profession.

Currently, Maine and Rhode Island prohibit certain flame-retardant chemicals and just last year, then California Governor Jerry Brown, signed a law banning dangerous flame retardants. These and other prohibitions have put pressure on manufacturers to embrace alternatives and produce products without the use of dangerous flame retardants.

I urge you and your colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation so that firefighting can be a safer profession.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Athey
(Signature)

7 February 2019
(Date)

Edward M. Athey
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