

Konrad Jackson

From: Carl Wassilie [carlwassilie.acyn@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 2:46 PM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Bob Miller; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Craig Johnson
Cc: Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Subject: support HB 63, the Preventing Toxic Exposures Bill

From: Carl Wassilie

Alaska's Big Village Network

3724 Campbell Airstrip Road

Anchorage, AK 99504

To: House Labor and Commerce Committee Members, Kurt Olson, Craig Johnson, Dan Saddler, Steve Thompson, Bob Miller, Mike Chenault;

We urge you to support HB 63, the Preventing Toxic Exposures Bill.

Our Network thinks this is a necessary bill to protect public health throughout Alaska. Currently, Yup'ik women and children are disproportionately impacted by exposure. This bill is a step in the right direction to mitigating the health risk.

WHY SHOULD ALASKANS BE CONCERNED ABOUT THESE CHEMICALS?

- PBDEs are widely used in a variety of consumer products. PBDEs are found in electronics, such as TVs, and used in some furniture foams, fabrics, and kitchen appliances.
- PBDEs are persistent bioaccumulative toxics that are having a profound effect on the environment and human health, particularly in Alaska and the Arctic. They accumulate and are long lasting.
- PBDEs interfere with thyroid function, cause problems with brain development, and disrupt learning, memory and behavior. They are largely unregulated in the U.S., thus increasing exponentially in the environment, wildlife, and people through widespread releases and

exposures in the home, workplace, and foods. Babies are exposed in their mother's womb and through breast milk.

- Women from the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta of Alaska have the highest level of any population in the Arctic.

THE SOLUTION?

House Bill 63 will phase out the use, sale and manufacture of products containing PBDEs by 2013. This bill will also allow DEC to work with other state agencies to share information; and directs DEC to compile a list of chemicals of concern.

Carl Wassilie
Yup'iaq Biologist

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3724 Campbell Airstrip Road

Anchorage, AK 99504

907.382.3403

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