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Akiachak
Akiak
Alakanuk
Andreafsky
Aniak
Atmautluak
Bethel
Bill Moore's Sl.
Chefornak
Chevak
Chuathbaluk
Chuloonawick
Crooked Creek
Eek
Emmonak
Georgetown
Goodnews Bay
Hamilton
Hooper Bay
Lower Kalskag
Upper Kalskag
Kasigluk
Kipnuk
Kongiganak
Kotlik
Kwethluk
Kwigillingok
Lime Village
Marshall
Mekoryuk
Mtn. Village
Napaimiut
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Newtok
Nightmute
Nunakauyaq
Nunam Iqua
Nunapitchuk
Ohogamiut
Oscarville
Paimiut
Pilot Station
Pitka's Point
Platinum
Quinhagak
Red Devil
Russian Mission
Scammon Bay
Sleetmute
St. Mary's
Stony River
Tuluksak
Tuntutuliak
Tununak
Umkumiut

February 18, 2011

Senator Bill Wielechowski
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Bill Wielechowski:

As President of the Association of Village Council Presidents we are writing you in support of SB 27, a bill that would prohibit the manufacture and sale of toxic retardants in common consumer products. The Association of Village Council Presidents is a tribally-governed organization advocating on behalf of 56 Federally Recognized tribal governments throughout the Calista region. We recognized increasing evidence that flame retardants, such as polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) named in SB 27 are being found in the Arctic. We are concerned about PBDEs leaving a lasting toxic legacy in people and the environment.

PBDEs are potent toxins that persist in the environment and bioaccumulation in the food chain and in human tissues. They can travel long distances and move readily between the water, soil, and air. PBDEs are associated with a variety of negative toxic effects including memory impairment, learning and behavioral problems, the disruption of thyroid hormone balance and reproductive health issues. In Alaska, PBDEs have been detected in seabird eggs, marine mammals, otters, and polar bears. The presence of such chemicals in wildlife is cause of concern, not only for the survival and well-being of wildlife but for the human consequences of bioaccumulative exposure through the food we eat.

We need to enact legislation to phase out PBDEs from consumer product. Fortunately, fire safety can be achieved without the use of toxic chemical because there are safe, economical, and effective alternatives to PBDEs currently in widespread use.

Eliminating most uses of PBDE flame retardants is possible and an important step to protecting public health.

Thank you for sponsoring this bill.

Sincerely,

Myron Naneng, President
ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS