

April 8, 2013

The Honorable Kurt Olson
Alaska House of Representatives
Chairman, House Labor and Commerce Committee
Capitol Room 24
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Bill 96

Dear Representative Olson:

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce's (Alaska Chamber) mission is to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Alaska Chamber represents hundreds of businesses and local chambers from across Alaska that share a common goal: to make Alaska a viable and competitive place to do business. Today, I write in opposition to House Bill (HB) 96 – Chemicals in Children's Products.

The Alaska Chamber supports legislation that protects public health and the environment through reasonable, carefully considered programs that are developed and implemented based on sound scientific arguments, credible, reproducible studies and economic analysis.

HB 96 proposes to identify priority chemicals based on the mere fact that the chemicals can be identified either through monitoring (e.g. detected in the human body or in water, air, etc) or merely present in a consumer product. There does not appear to be any language that discusses potential exposure, route of exposure, or whether such exposure has any impact on human health and the environment.

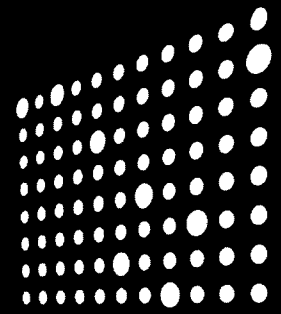
There are several concepts that come into play when determining the potential for danger associated with a product. Hazard refers to the inherent properties of a substance that make it capable of causing harm to human health or the environment. Exposure describes both the amount of, and the frequency with which, a chemical substance reaches a person, group of people, or the environment. Risk is the possibility of a harmful event arising from specific uses and circumstances of exposure to a substance.

A robust scientific safety assessment of a chemical requires all three factors to be fully evaluated. The Alaska Chamber will not support precautionary legislation or regulations that are based on an unfounded perception of potential risk.

Sincerely,



Rachael Petro
President & CEO



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CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

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Alaska Business*

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