

December 4, 2011

Dear Senators,

This letter is in support of Senate Bill 27. SB 27 regulates PBDE's. PBDE's are chemicals that are used as flame retardants that have been found to accumulate in the environment and living organisms, particularly in fat and breast milk. They don't break down or biodegrade. These chemicals are associated with liver toxicity, thyroid toxicity, and neurologic and developmental toxicity. Twelve states already regulate PBDE's.

Animal studies in mice and rats show that PBDE exposure during pregnancy and after birth causes problems with brain development. These studies observed problems with learning, memory, and behavior. Human studies show higher PBDE's levels in mothers has been associated with lower measures of intelligence, attention, and fine motor skills in their children. In particular, the fact that PBDE's accumulate and pass in breast milk is worrisome.

Alaska is known throughout the world for its pristine beauty. We capitalize on this with our tremendous fisheries and tourism business. Passing legislation that bans PBDE's would strengthen our reputation as unpolluted and pure.

More importantly, banning PBDE's would protect our children and our children's children from toxic chemicals that accumulate in our bodies and environment.

Please protect our great state and its people and pass Senate Bill 27.

Sincerely,

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