



ALASKA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 111222 ANCHORAGE, AK 99511

North Pole – Fairbanks – Shemya – Anchorage – Juneau – Ketchikan

www.alaskapffa.org



March 6, 2018

Representative Geran Tarr

State Capital Room 126

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Representative Tarr,

I am writing today in support of HB 27 High-Risk Chemicals for Child Exposure. The Alaska Professional Fire Fighters support this bill and encourage passage. HB 27 would work to ban chemicals proven to be dangerous to firefighters and the community such as PBDE flame retardants.

Our organization represent 500 firefighters across Alaska. They face all types of dangers in the line of duty. While we cannot eliminate all risk, but we have an obligation to ensure our firefighters work in the safest environment possible. Eliminating dangerous chemicals that offer little benefit goes a long way toward achieving a safer work environment.

It is no secret that cancer is a big concern for firefighters. The data exists that shows we experience cancer at much higher rates than the public. Much of this is attributed to absorption of carcinogens during fire fighting operations. When Flame retardants burn large amounts of cancer causing dioxins and furans are released and absorbed and inhaled by firefighters. Recent studies have shown firefighters have three times the level of these harmful chemicals in their systems after a fire. Eliminating these flame retardants would be a step in the right direction.

Alaska should follow the lead of many states and manufactures who have eliminated the use of these harmful chemicals that offer little if any benefit. The Alaska Professional Fire Fighters support HB 27 and encourage passage.


Thomas A. Wescott

President Alaska Professional Fire Fighters