

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE

March 16, 2011

3:24 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Kurt Olson, Chair
Representative Craig Johnson, Vice Chair
Representative Mike Chenault
Representative Dan Saddler
Representative Steve Thompson
Representative Lindsey Holmes
Representative Bob Miller

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 24

"An Act extending the termination date of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CSHB 24(L&C) OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 63

"An Act relating to flame retardants and to the manufacture, sale, and distribution of products containing flame retardants; relating to bioaccumulative toxic chemicals; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 12

"An Act establishing the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council, and abolishing the Medical Services Review Committee; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARING CANCELED

HOUSE BILL NO. 155

"An Act relating to public construction contracts."

- HEARING CANCELED

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 24

SHORT TITLE: EXTEND REGULATORY COMM. OF ALASKA SUNSET

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) OLSON

01/18/11 (H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/7/11
01/18/11 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/18/11 (H) L&C, FIN
03/16/11 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 63

SHORT TITLE: FLAME RETARDANTS AND TOXIC CHEMICALS

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) HOLMES

01/18/11 (H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/7/11
01/18/11 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/18/11 (H) L&C, FIN
03/14/11 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/14/11 (H) Heard & Held
03/14/11 (H) MINUTE(L&C)
03/16/11 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

WITNESS REGISTER

KONRAD JACKSON, Staff
Representative Kurt Olson
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified on the changes in the committee substitute for HB 24 on behalf of the committee, chaired by Representative Kurt Olson.

KATHIE WASSERMAN, Executive Director
Alaska Municipal League (AML)
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the discussion of HB 24.

MIKE COUMBE, Staff
Representative Lindsey Holmes
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the discussion of HB 63.

BETHANY BUCHANAN, Nurse Practitioner; Member
Alaska Nurse Practitioner Association (ANPA)
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the discussion of HB 63.

EMILY BREESE, Participant
Alaska Youth for the Environmental Action (AYEA); Region II
Representative
Alaska Association of Student Government
Healy, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the discussion of HB 63.

RYAN KIMBERLING
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the discussion of HB 63.

PATTY SAUNDERS, Arc of Anchorage
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the discussion of HB 63.

PAM MILLER, Executive Director
Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT)
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 63.

KRISTIN RYAN, Director
Division of Environmental Health
Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the discussion of HB 63.

NIM HA, Acting Program Manager
Section of Epidemiology
Alaska Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the discussion of HB 63.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[3:24:03 PM](#)

CHAIR KURT OLSON called the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:24 p.m. Representatives Olson, Johnson, Saddler, Chenault, and Miller were present at the call to order. Representatives Thompson and Holmes arrived as the meeting was in progress.

HB 24-EXTEND REGULATORY COMM. OF ALASKA SUNSET

[3:24:18 PM](#)

CHAIR OLSON announced that the first order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 24, "An Act extending the termination date of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

[3:25:00 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON moved to adopt the proposed committee substitute (CS) for HB 24, labeled 27-LS0173\M, Kane, 3/10/11 as the working document. [Version M was before the committee.]

[3:25:27 PM](#)

KONRAD JACKSON, Staff, Representative Kurt Olson, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative Kurt Olson, Chair, House Labor & Commerce Committee, explained the changes in Version M. He stated that Version M would extend the termination date of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) to 2019. This date was recommended by the Division of Legislative Audit. He reported that as members are aware, the Division of Legislative Audit reviews agencies' activities and processes and determines whether the agency is acting in accordance with the legislature's wishes, and if it should be reestablished. He pointed out that a copy of the summary and full audit is in members' packets with the determination that the RCA is fulfilling a public need and is continuing to serve Alaskans. The Legislative Budget & Audit report recommends extending the commission for an additional eight years after recognizing that the RCA has been making efforts to address any issues. He reiterated that the RCA is serving a public purpose and has demonstrated an effort to resolve issues brought forward by prior audits. He passed out an updated fiscal note which corresponded to Version M.

[3:28:42 PM](#)

KATHIE WASSERMAN, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League (AML), stated that the AML has found especially with utilities run by municipalities the RCA can be helpful in assisting utilities and providing protection for customers. She recalled her positive experience in Pelican, which was under the RCA. She stated that the AML supports extending the RCA.

[3:30:07 PM](#)

CHAIR OLSON, after first determining no one else wished to testify, closed public testimony on HB 24.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON moved to report the proposed committee substitute (CS) for HB 24, Version M, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, the CSHB 24(L&C) was reported from the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

[3:31:06 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:31 p.m. to 3:33 p.m.

HB 63-FLAME RETARDANTS AND TOXIC CHEMICALS

[3:33:52 PM](#)

CHAIR OLSON announced that the final order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 63, "An Act relating to flame retardants and to the manufacture, sale, and distribution of products containing flame retardants; relating to bioaccumulative toxic chemicals; and providing for an effective date."

[3:34:03 PM](#)

MIKE COUMBE, Staff, Representative Lindsey Holmes, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative Holmes, explained that HB 63 would ban the use of three chemicals which are polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), and would allow the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to monitor some chemicals. In response to Chair Olson, he identified the chemicals in question as pentaDBE, octaBDE, and decaBDE.

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BETHANY BUCHANAN, Nurse Practitioner; Member, Alaska Nurse Practitioner Association (ANPA), stated that she is representing the Alaska Nurse Practitioner Association (ANPA). She reported that the ANPA supports banning these chemicals. She advised that these chemicals are known as endocrine disrupters, which can mimic estrogen and can adversely affect children. This may cause issues for girls and boys including earlier breast development and sperm development and can lead to infertility issues for both sexes. She also reported that levels are 10 to 14 times higher than in Japan or Europe. The American Public Health Association and International Fire Fighters Association (IAFF) are both opposed to use of these chemicals. She referred

to a group of well over 100 scientists who published the "San Antonio Statement on Brominated and Chlorinated Flame Retardants." The publication addresses the growing concern in the scientific community about the persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic properties of brominated and chlorinated organic flame retardants (BFRs and CFRs) and the exposure to humans and wildlife as a result of intensive use. Nearly 150 scientists from 22 countries have signed the statement since it was presented at the 30th International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants (Dioxin 2010), held in September 2010 in San Antonio, Texas. She related her understanding that the chemicals will be banned in 2014 but would be good to protect children by starting the ban now.

[3:37:44 PM](#)

EMILY BREESE, Participant, Alaska Youth for the Environmental Action (AYEA); Region II Representative, Alaska Association of Student Government, stated that she is a junior at Tri-Valley School in Healy, Alaska. She has been concerned along with her peers, friends, family, and Alaskans after learning of the prevalence of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) used in flame retardants. These flame retardants are meant to keep people safe but are harming them. She related the possible health defects of PBDEs including cancer, developmental defects, thyroid problems, and reproductive effects. She asked why the chemicals are continuing to be used when safe, economic alternatives exist. She thought it was scary that her family could be in danger by sitting on the sofa or using a laptop since chemicals leach into the ambient air. She urged members to consider this bill and allow people to make informed decisions on health and limit exposure to PBDEs.

[3:39:46 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked how she became aware of the issue.

MS. BREESE answered that she learned about this bill from her involvement with AYEAs.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked whether she was concerned about other similar environmental concerns.

MS. BREESE answered yes.

CHAIR OLSON pointed out that he has been on the AYEAs mailing list and suggested that new legislators should be added to the

mailing list since their newsletter is a good way to keep current with issues of concern to youth.

3:41:23 PM

RYAN KIMBERLING stated that this bill is unnecessary and is an ill-advised bill that could cause more harm than good. He related his understanding that the federal government already plans to ban the PBDEs in all 50 states so it would be counterproductive to ban PBDEs state-by-state. The Center for Disease Control Study from 1980-1998 showed that Alaska Native children suffered the highest rates of fatalities from fires. He expressed concern over the cost to implement this bill. He urged members to hold the bill for further consideration.

REPRESENTATIVE HOLMES asked how he became aware of the bill.

MR. KIMBERLING answered that he read about the bill on the Internet and in Anchorage Daily News articles.

CHAIR OLSON referred to the implementation cost and related that the fiscal note is for \$400,000 in the first year.

3:44:06 PM

PATTY SAUNDERS, Arc of Anchorage, stated that she has worked over 11 years for the Arc of Anchorage, which represents children and adults with disabilities and their families. She related that the Arc of Anchorage employs 350 people who serve more than 500 children and adults who experience intellectual or developmental disabilities. People with disabilities and their families rely heavily on government funding, especially Medicaid, to access the services they need as a result of their disabilities. She said that the employees love their jobs but would love it even more if prevention of mental and physical disabilities led to people no longer needing their care. According to the Governor's Council on Special Education and Disabilities preventing a single occurrence of intellectual or physical disability could reduce health costs by \$1 to \$3 million over the life of a child. One in six families in Alaska is affected by disabilities so the potential savings are staggering. She recognized that not all mental and physical disabilities are preventable due to illness and injuries. She predicted that HB 63 would take the first step to protect the developing brains of our children by eliminating the neurotoxins known as PBDEs from our environment. She indicated that HB 63 would ask the state to evaluate the alternatives and create a

registry of safe fire retardants to protect children, their families, and the firefighters who risk their lives to save them and prohibit the use of PBDEs.

MS. SAUNDERS said it is sad that a doctor who works at a burn clinic can sympathize with burned children but can't find empathy for the children and parents who face a life-long struggle as a result of intellectual and developmental disabilities caused by a fire retardant chemical that could easily be replaced by something safer for developing brains. Critics of most environmental health legislation argue that such legislation goes too far and adversely affects the economy. It seems disingenuous that HB 63 is being criticized by those who support the industry's interests by not going far enough. Taking the first modest step described in HB 63 is not a worthless exercise since it would identify alternatives that the state believes are safer and would alert the public to the dangers of those chemicals in order for them to have the opportunity to make better choices about their children's exposure to chemicals. She offered her belief that people have a right to know about the dangers these chemicals pose.

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MS. SAUNDERS also expressed astonishment that earlier testimony advocated doing nothing due to the persistence of PBDEs in our environment. She suggested that type of logic would have citizens still poisoning our children with lead paint and would allow the use of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) with its harmful effects. She has issues with respect to letting the federal government take care of regulating PBDEs. She asked what happened to the Alaskan "can do" attitude and pioneer spirit in taking care of our own. She asked which legislators would look parents in the eye when a baby is diagnosed with a mental or physical disability that is completely preventable and tell them the health and well being of their child was not worth the cost of \$400,000 to implement HB 63. She acknowledged that people's worth is not measured in terms of dollars and cents. However, she reiterated the lifetime cost of caring for an intellectual or developmentally disabled child ranges from \$1 to \$4 million. She offered her belief that the monetary savings would accrue over time as well as a reduction in the psychic and physical toll on families. She wondered whose interests are being protected since there are not any domestic manufacturers of PBDEs. She reiterated that the manufacturers of alternatives are domestic companies who can benefit when importation of PBDEs ceases. Mattress and furniture makers could use the domestic

alternatives currently in existence. Firefighters support elimination of PBDEs as they are the ones who are unnecessarily exposed to toxic chemicals. She urged members to help. In 1975, 200 deaths per year from television fires galvanized people to develop flame retardants. She concluded that if television fires could be reduced, surely the legislature could act to prevent intellectual and developmental disabilities from PBDEs. She concluded by urging members to support HB 63.

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REPRESENTATIVE CHENAULT asked for clarification on whether 200 likely cases were likely to happen in Alaska.

MS. SAUNDERS clarified that she intended to contrast the 200 deaths from fires in 1975 attributable to televisions not treated with flame retardants to the potential preventable intellectual and developmental disabilities caused by PBDEs.

REPRESENTATIVE CHENAULT asked whether that was her opinion or if it was based on evidence.

MS. SAUNDERS answered that one in six families in the U.S. is affected by disabilities. That figure is higher in Alaska. She said she is not suggesting every preventable intellectual or developmental disability is caused by PBDEs since it is not possible to determine the proportion related to PBDEs. However, the number of intellectual and developmental disabilities is so large is it almost impossible for it not to attribute at least 200 instances to PBDE use.

[3:53:02 PM](#)

PAM MILLER, Executive Director, Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) stated that she is a biologist by training. She offered her support for HB 63. She related that ACAT is a statewide environmental health and justice organization established in 1997 to conduct research and provides educational programs, technical assistance and training. She noted that she previously listened to the last hearing on HB 63. She stated that it is not necessary to compromise fire safety by passing HB 63 since brominated flame retardants increase toxicity but have not been proven to improve fire safety. She related newly introduced legislation in New Jersey to phase out decaBDE found that when plastics containing decaBDE are burned toxic gases such as hydrogen bromide result and can be inhaled or absorbed. Hydrogen bromide can penetrate the breathing apparatus of

firefighters and poses a significant public safety threat to firemen and the public. She pointed out that a range of alternative approaches to fire safety exists that does not require the addition of persistent toxic chemicals. Additionally, economic and viable chemicals exist, including inherently flame resistant fabric barriers or boric acid treated fibers used by some mattress manufacturers. One alternative chemical, resorcinol bis, diphenyl phosphate, (RDP) was supported as an alternate chemical to PBDEs by Maine and Washington state. She referred to information from Citizens of Fire Safety, funded by chemical manufacturers, in members' packets claim the safety and need for PBDEs but ignore the science and range of alternative approaches to achieve fire safety. She offered her belief that this group not only ignores the science but the health effects of PBDEs and the alternatives.

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MS. MILLER stated that updating state laws governing toxic chemicals can improve the health of Alaska's citizens and contain health care costs. The federal system for regulating chemicals is broken. The EPA agreement previously referred to is limited to three manufacturers in the U.S. and is voluntary. Thus, the agreement does not apply to all U.S. manufacturers or to imported goods. She stressed the importance to take the initiative to phase out chemicals and protect Alaskans.

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REPRESENTATIVE HOLMES emphasized that the federal government is not banning PBDEs but has had voluntary participation by some manufacturers. Thus, it is not an actual ban, she stated.

MS. MILLER agreed. The federal program is voluntary with three manufacturers and is not legally binding. This bill would phase out those items containing PBDEs from our homes similar to the ban on certain toys being imported. The federal government has not been able to achieve a ban even though it has identified PBDEs as a priority toxic substance. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recognized that it does not have the tools or mechanism in place to enact phase outs so it is really up to the states to take action. She offered her belief that is the reason 12 other states have taken action. The European Union has banned decaBDE and it is the world's largest economy so this is driving the manufacturers combined with consumer pressure to phase out PBDEs. She argued that not using PBDEs

would benefit businesses to use innovation and alternatives since it being driven by consumer concerns.

CHAIR OLSON asked if the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has taken a position on the bill.

3:59:10 PM

KRISTIN RYAN, Director, Division of Environmental Health, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), said the administration is neutral on this bill.

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REPRESENTATIVE HOLMES asked for clarification on the federal EPA actions in terms of mandatory and voluntary phase outs of PBDEs.

MS. RYAN offered to research to provide additional details to the committee. She said she is aware of the inadequacy of federal legislation that would grant the EPA authority to regulate chemicals used in consumer products. The DEC supports changes in federal law to provide the EPA the authority to regulate products posing potential problems for our environmental and public health. She related her understanding that the EPA has secured voluntary agreements with U.S. manufacturers and is attempting to achieve these agreements with other companies in other countries. She affirmed the agreements are voluntary agreements. The EPA does not fundamentally have the ability to act on information relating to the chemicals.

REPRESENTATIVE HOLMES related some of the information before the committee has been confusing.

4:01:53 PM

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON referred to an EPA Bulletin titled HQ-OPPT-2010-0146. He read:

EPA intends to support and encourage the voluntary phase-out of manufacturer and import of c-decaBDE. EPA has received commitments from the principal manufacturers and importers of c-decaBDE to initiate reductions in manufacturer, import and sales of c-decaBDE starting in 2010, with all sales to cease by December 31, 2013.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON said this language did not sound voluntary or arbitrary. He interpreted this bulletin to mean the EPA has a voluntary program in 2010, but in 2013 all sales would cease.

MS. RYAN offered to provide a formal response. She indicated that the EPA does not have the legal capacity to ban chemicals in commerce.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON inquired as to how the EPA was able to ban [dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane] DDT.

MS. RYAN responded that DDT is a pesticide which is regulated by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

[4:03:55 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked whether PBDEs represent a health hazard in Alaska.

MS. RYAN answered that the DEC has some evidence of PBDEs in Alaska's environment and in Alaskans. At this point the levels are very low so the PBDEs probably do not represent a health impact. She expressed concern that low levels of PBDEs have surfaced in species such as walrus which are species that do not come in contact with PBDEs products. These indications create areas of concern. She reported the DEC discovered one sample of arctic char from Big Lake with high levels of PBDEs and will follow up with additional sampling in order to determine whether this is an anomaly or if it is an indicator of a larger problem.

[4:05:07 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked for clarification on the degree of hazard that the PBDEs represent.

MS. RYAN said that would be difficult since the DEC and her division has many responsibilities. She related her understanding that sound evidence shows that PBDEs negatively impact human health. She was unsure whether PBDEs were more important than other department responsibilities.

[4:06:09 PM](#)

NIM HA, Acting Program Manager, Section of Epidemiology, Alaska Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), introduced herself.

[4:06:42 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked to what extent PBDEs represent a health hazard in Alaska.

MS. HA said she did not believe the department had sufficient data to suggest PBDE levels in humans in Alaska are less or more than anywhere else in the U.S.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER recalled assertions of a correlation between animal health and human health. He inquired as to whether this is an issue.

MS. HA answered the scientific community has not held unanimous consent about the human health effects of PBDEs since most of the information comes from animal studies. She offered that a few studies in humans have studied PBDEs levels in blood and breast milk. One study reviewed PBDE levels and developmental input in early life. That study found an association between higher levels of PBDEs in cord blood and lower intelligence scores (IQ) scores.

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REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked whether a summary of the study was available.

MR. COUMBE offered to locate it for members.

[4:09:35 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CHENAULT inquired as to whether the alternative green chemicals are available and reasonably priced. He further asked for specific comparisons to the chemicals currently being used. He related his understanding that most manufacturers would use the newer, green chemicals to address known concerns so long as the new chemicals are comparable. He expressed concern that the other chemicals may not be safer and asked whether tests have been conducted and if the results are available. He commented that apparently we did not know the PBDEs were bad for us.

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REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON referred to the fiscal note.

MS. RYAN responded that there has not been adequate testing done on chemicals in personal care products and the federal legislation is inadequate. The federal EPA must test thousands of chemicals. The current law provides that proof must exist that the chemicals are unsafe whereas pesticides must be proven to be safe prior to use. She expressed hope that the EPA would be given the tools it needs prior to the products being put into commerce but currently that is not the situation. She related that adequate options to flame retardants do not always contain chemicals, including cigarettes that go out rather than continue to burn, using products on the fabric surface rather than the foam pad containing the chemical. One reason the fiscal note is significant is the department does not have specific programs to regulate chemicals although it does have broad authority over environmental discharge. Currently the DEC does not have the authority to review chemicals in consumer products. Under the bill, the DEC would build a program with minimal levels similar to how several other states have addressed PBDEs. She offered her belief that it would take one staff person to formulate the department's position and determine how to provide the information to the public so people can make informed decisions.

[4:16:05 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON asked whether this would create a new department.

MS. RYAN joked that it would be the Department of Agriculture.

[4:16:18 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CHENAULT commented he does not have confidence in the EPA since it seems the department can shut down businesses but does not have the authority to deal with an issue like this.

REPRESENTATIVE HOLMES remarked that earlier the opinion was that the EPA was already testing products but now the committee seems fine with them not testing.

[4:17:30 PM](#)

MS. MILLER reiterated her belief that Alaska can improve overall health care costs in Alaska and businesses could benefit from using innovative products as a result of consumer pressure. Thus, not using PBDEs could have immeasurable benefits for future generations. She pointed out the devastating effects lead use had on the intellectual capacity of children when it

was used as an additive to paint and gasoline. Therefore, dramatic public health benefits were obtained by removing the lead used in products. She stated that people did not stop painting their homes or driving but the additives were removed. There is growing scientific evidence which shows that chemicals used in products contribute to chronic disease and disorders. She referred to a compelling health study concerning the health effects of PBDEs in children. She identified the study as one prepared by the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health that showed that children with higher prenatal exposure to PBDEs scored lower on tests of mental and physical development at ages 1, 4 and 6. Children exposed to PBDEs prior to birth are affected throughout childhood and perhaps permanently. She offered to provide the study to the committee. She pointed out another study done by the Arctic Monitoring Assessment program showed that women of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta have the highest levels of PBDEs in their blood of any population in the circumpolar Arctic. She offered her belief that companies are highly motivated to use safer alternatives demanded by consumers.

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MS. MILLER reported that even in a depressed economy companies producing healthy products experience unprecedented and impressive growth and are not just surviving but are thriving. These companies prevent liability and protect investors through innovation. Today's business leaders and U.S. companies who are concerned about the health and business impacts of their products that contain toxic chemicals can innovate and be more competitive. Society has an ethical responsibility to protect health and reduce the cost of health care by preventing unnecessary exposures to chemicals that are known to cause harm. She urged members to pass HB 63 to protect health and particularly the health of vulnerable persons, including firefighters, pregnant women, children and other workers.

[4:22:05 PM](#)

CHAIR OLSON announced he would hold public testimony open on HB 63.

[HB 63 was held over.]

[4:22:11 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.