



## THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIN COUNTY

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August 7, 2007

Honorable Mark Leno  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0013

RE: AB 706 (Leno) – SUPPORT – Hearing Date: August 20, 2007

Dear Assembly Member Leno:

On behalf of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, we would like to express our support of AB 706, the California Furniture Safety and Fire Prevention Act that bans by January 1, 2010 the use of brominated fire retardants (BFRs) and chlorinated fire retardants (CFRs) in all seating furniture, mattresses, box springs, mattress sets, futons, other bedding products, and reupholstered furniture to which filling materials are added. By eliminating these toxic flame retardants from bedding and furniture products, your bill will reduce the threat from fires and health impacts caused by these retardants.

Beginning in 1975, California developed stringent fire safety standards for furniture and mattresses, and is now developing standards for bedding such as pillows and comforters. However, this regulation has led to tens of millions of pounds of BFRs and CFRs being put into products in contact with humans. Today, virtually every Californian tested has been found to have these fire retardants stored in their bodies, with babies showing the highest levels. Long-term exposure to these chemicals can cause a variety of health problems, including reproductive, neurological, and developmental problems. These chemicals can also cause health impacts to fire fighters, including elevated levels of various types of cancer.

Our Board recognizes the importance of ensuring fire safety as well as minimizing exposure to chemicals. However, your bill maintains fire safety by requiring the use of less toxic fire safety alternatives, such as inherently flame-resistant woods and metals, naturally-flame resistant barriers, and additives such as silicon, boric acid, or phosphates. These viable alternatives indicate that fire safety will be not compromised by eliminating these chemical fire retardants.

Along with our Fire Department, we join the many environmental, labor, and firefighting organizations supporting your bill and urge its passage to reduce toxic exposure and protect the health of our residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Kinsey, President  
Marin County Board of Supervisors

Charles McGlashan, Vice President  
Marin County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Senator Carole Migden  
Assembly Member Jared Huffman

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