

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 17, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

As you know, President Obama recently signed into law the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, a long overdue update of federal chemical safety laws. This new law gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a clear and enforceable mandate to review and evaluate chemicals based on their impact on human health.

Specifically, it directs EPA to prioritize ten chemicals from its work plan for review. While we recognize that selecting these ten chemicals will be a difficult task, we strongly urge you to include on the list the chemicals contained within three classes of flame retardants -- the Chlorinated Phosphate Esters cluster, the Cyclic Aliphatic Bromides cluster, and the Tetrabromobisphenol A cluster.

Americans are exposed to flame retardant chemicals in their daily lives. These chemicals are widely used in products such as household furniture, textiles, and electronic equipment, yet they can persist in the environment and potentially pose hazards to humans. First responders are often exposed to these fumes when responding to emergencies and are particularly concerned about the health effects posed by the continued use of these chemicals in consumer products.

Emergency response invariably involves a degree of risk, but we can help mitigate these inherent dangers by prioritizing chemicals that first responders disproportionately encounter. We commend EPA for its previous work assessing these chemical clusters and firmly believe they are strong candidates for further review.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to implement this important new law.

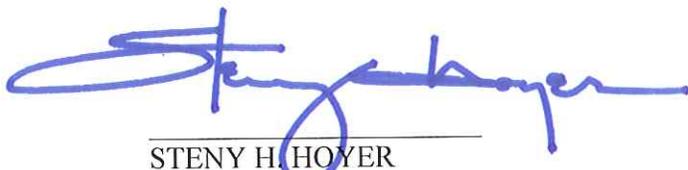
Sincerely,



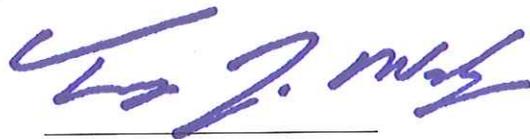
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Member of Congress

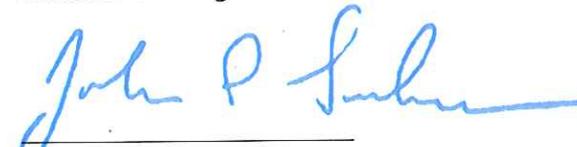
ROB BISHOP
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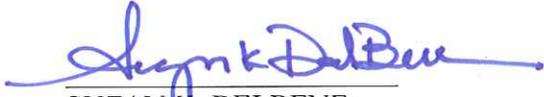
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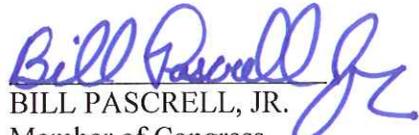
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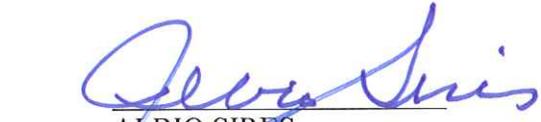
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress

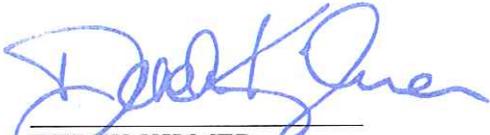

DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress

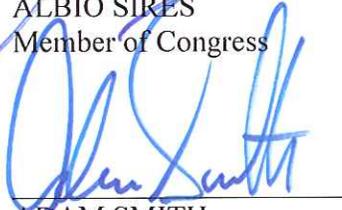

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