



STATE OF WASHINGTON

Developmental Disabilities Council

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January 24, 2007

Dear Legislator:

The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council and the Arc of Washington State support SHB 1024 and SSB 5034 to phase out the use of PBDE flame retardants.

We are concerned about anything in the environment that might or could possibly be a contributor to children being born with developmental delays and disabilities. We think it is irresponsible to take the chance that environmental toxins, such as lead, mercury or PBDEs could be damaging to our children's development. It is obvious that the younger the child, the more sensitive they would be to environmental toxins. And developing fetuses would be especially vulnerable.

It is extremely important to protect children from harm. It is our understanding that phasing out PBDE flame retardants would not have negative impacts elsewhere; it would not reduce fire safety and would not harm Washington businesses.

We urge you to do what is right on behalf of children.

Thank you.

Ed Holen, Executive Director
Developmental Disabilities Council

Sue Elliott, Executive Director
Arc of Washington

