

Washington State Public Health Association

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January 31, 2007

Via FAX (360) 786-7520

The Honorable Rosa Franklin
Vice Chair, Senate Rules Committee
220A Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40466
Olympia, WA 98504-0466

Dear Senator Franklin:

The Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) would like to go on record in support of SSB 5034 “*Phasing out the Use of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers*”.

At the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Association, WSPHA passed the resolution “*Protecting Public Health by Phasing Out Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers*”, which calls for safer chemical policies to achieve the phase out of hazardous chemicals, and encourages further development of safe, cost effective alternative products to Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs).

PBDEs are linked to serious health effects including memory impairment, and learning and behavioral problems in laboratory animals at very low levels, and they have also been associated with disruption of thyroid hormone balance, and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma in humans.

Further, recent scientific studies have documented rapidly rising levels of PBDEs in human breast milk, with levels in Puget Sound women documented at levels from 20 to 40 times higher than their European and Japanese counterparts.

WSPHA supports the phase out and elimination of PBDEs in Washington State while maintaining existing fire safety standards. Substitution with available alternatives makes the use of PBDEs an unnecessary risk to human and environmental health.

We appreciate the committee’s attention to this issue and urge you to support SSB 5034.

Sincerely,

L. Elizabeth Glynn
Co-Chair, WSPHA Policy and Legislative Committee