

A Resolution of the Abbott Loop Community Council in Support of an Ordinance to Protect the Health of Children, Firefighters, and Families

- WHEREAS: Scientists recognize the urgency of reducing the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly young children, to flame retardant chemicals. A scientific consensus statement published by the Project Targeting Environmental Neurodevelopmental Risks [1] found that certain flame retardant chemicals are associated with neurodevelopmental harm in children and called for action to reduce exposures to toxic chemicals, such as flame retardants, that contribute to the prevalence of neurodevelopmental disabilities in children; and
- WHEREAS: Flame retardant chemicals are found in many household products that children come in contact with, including toys, nap mats, changing mats, nursing pillows, furniture foam, mattresses, carpet backing, and electronics casings. Flame retardant chemicals migrate out of products and contaminate indoor air and household dust. Inhalation and ingestion of household dust are common routes of exposure to flame retardant chemicals [2]; and
- WHEREAS: The national biomonitoring program conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 97 percent of people living in the United States have measurable quantities of organohalogen flame retardants in their blood. Children have been found to have three to five times higher levels of certain flame retardants than their mothers [3]; and
- WHEREAS: Many organohalogen flame retardants are persistent and bioaccumulate in fish, wildlife, and people. People of the north may be more highly exposed because of our higher percentage of time spent indoors in insulated homes, as well as our greater reliance on traditional foods. Yupik women of the Yukon-Kuskokwim region have the highest known levels of certain flame retardants of any population in the circumpolar Arctic [4]; and
- WHEREAS: The Consumer Product Safety Commission issued the following warning about products containing organohalogen flame retardant chemicals: “The known adverse health effects of these chemicals to

consumers include: reproductive impairment (e.g., abnormal gonadal development, reduced number of ovarian follicles, reduced sperm count, increased time to pregnancy); neurological impacts (e.g., decreased IQ in children, impaired memory, learning deficits, altered motor behavior, hyperactivity); endocrine disruption and interference with thyroid hormone action (potentially contributing to diabetes and obesity); genotoxicity; cancer; and immune disorders. These chemicals have a disproportionately negative health effect on vulnerable populations, including children.”[5]

WHEREAS: Firefighters are at particular risk from exposure to flame retardant chemicals. Numerous studies document increased cancer rates and deaths amongst firefighters due to occupational exposures [6]; and

WHEREAS: Scientific studies have found that flame retardant chemicals are not needed to provide fire safety [7]; and

WHEREAS: The federal government has failed to adequately regulate the use of flame retardant chemicals. In the absence of federal action, local governments and states have taken steps to limit or ban the use of flame retardant chemicals to protect the health of their citizens. To date, there are 41 adopted policies in 13 states, including local jurisdictions such as Washington DC and San Francisco; with an additional 40 policies being considered in 18 states in 2018 [8];

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Abbott Loop Community Council supports an ordinance to protect the health of our children, firefighters, and families by prohibiting the sale and distribution of children’s products and furniture that contain unsafe levels of organohalogen flame retardants.

Passed this day November 29, 2018.

DocuSigned by:

Bruce Roberts

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Bruce Roberts, President
Abbott Loop Community Council

