



Healthy Furniture Bill – LD 182

Protect the health of Maine firefighters and families by getting toxic “flame retardant” chemicals out of upholstered couches and chairs

Maine firefighters risk their lives to protect our families and our homes – their biggest danger shouldn't be from toxic “flame retardants” in household furniture

Too many of our firefighters are getting cancer

- While on the job, firefighters are exposed to toxic smoke from flame retardant chemicals.
- Cancer is the leading cause of job-related death for a firefighter. Sixty percent of firefighter job-related deaths are due to cancer.
- Firefighters develop over 10 types of cancer more often than the general population (including testicular, skin, brain and breast cancers, and leukemia).



“Flame retardants” in upholstered furniture are harmful to the health of firefighters and families

- Strong peer-reviewed scientific studies shows that many “flame retardants” are linked to cancer, reproductive harm, and harm to the developing brain.
- Young children are also exposed to these toxic chemicals from household dust that escapes from our couches and chairs, which they breathe or ingest by hand-to-mouth activity.

Safer alternatives to flame retardants are widely available, at no added cost to Maine businesses

- Years of safety testing show that chemicals are not needed to slow down fires in couches and chairs. No state in the nation requires flame retardant chemicals in residential furniture.
- Other proven measures, like tighter-woven fabrics on furniture as well as smoke alarms and sprinklers, are more effective safety measures.
- Many major furniture companies, including Ikea, Macy's and Ashley, have already eliminated flame retardants from their products. Yet these dangerous chemicals are still used in some household furniture.

Who Else Supports LD 182?

**Professional Firefighters of Maine
Maine State Federation of Firefighters
Maine Fire Commission
Maine Fire Chiefs' Association**

**Ross Endicott, Endicott Home Furnishings
based in Scarborough
Senator Dana Dow, Dow Furniture**

Support LD 182: The Healthy Furniture Bill

Voted 12 – 1 “Ought to Pass as Amended” by Environment and Natural Resources Committee

For more information, please contact John Martell, Professional Fire Fighters of Maine, pf188@comcast.net



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 31 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive

Acadia Center	Maine Lakes Society
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine People's Alliance
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Rivers
Conservation Law Foundation	Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Environment Maine	Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter
Friends of Casco Bay	RESTORE: The North Woods
Islesboro Island Trust	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Audubon	The Trust for Public Land
Maine Center for Economic Policy	The Wilderness Society
Maine Conservation Alliance	Toxics Action Center
Maine Council of Churches	Upstream
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	350 Maine
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	