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CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
HOUSE OF COMMONS

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JUN 19 2007  
Mayor's Office

June 11, 2007

HALIFAX REGIONAL  
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JUN 19 2007  
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Mayor Peter Kelly  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mayor Kelly,

Rm. 178, Confederation Bldg.  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
Tel: (613) 992-4214  
Fax: (613) 947-9500  
TTY: (613) 992-4249

I am pleased to write you today to invite you to participate with me in a very important task: improving the health of Canadians by ridding Canada of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs).

Julian.P@parl.gc.ca

These chemicals, long used as flame retardants in furniture, textiles, television sets and more, have been found in accumulating amounts in fish, food, household dust, and in human breast milk.



*Peter Julian, M.P.*  
Burnaby - New Westminster

A growing number of leaders in the scientific community are confirming the risks and harm to the human reproductive and nervous systems related to prolonged exposure to PBDEs. Infants, children, breastfeeding mothers as well as workers in the information technology, textile and furniture manufacturing fields are particularly at risk.

PBDE levels are also growing very quickly in Canada's coastal marine waters; they are expected to surpass PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) as the leading contaminant in endangered southern resident killer whales by 2020.

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While PBDEs have been classified as toxic under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act since December of 2006, the federal government has only created regulations banning the two less commonly used PBDEs: pentaBDE and octaBDE. The third type, decaBDE, is the one most widely used in the manufacturing of household electronics, furniture, and textiles. The vast majority of the PBDEs used in the electronics industry belong to the decaBDE category.

Pièce 178  
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It is important to realize that Canada is lagging behind the United States and most European countries with regards to legislation banning PBDEs from industry and importation.

Julian.P@parl.gc.ca

The Washington State House of Representatives recently passed legislation banning all PBDEs, including deca. The phase-out of *all* PBDEs will begin in 2008, starting with mattresses, then continuing

with televisions, computers, and upholstery. This law was also supported by the American division of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF).

In response to this situation, I have tabled a motion in the 38<sup>th</sup> Parliament, seeking to ban the production and importation of products containing additive PBDEs.

The following is the text of the motion (formerly M-275):

**Motion M-38**

**That, in the opinion of the House, the government should recognize that fire retardants containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) are proven to be the most dangerous form of flame retardant harmful to people, animals and the environment, and that legislation completely phasing out the production and import of products containing additive PBDEs should be brought forth within a year.**

I am pleased to report that the Canadian division of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) is in full support of the motion. Attached to this letter is a copy of a letter my office recently received from them regarding this issue.

I have also attached a list of over 20 municipalities throughout British Columbia that have come out in full support of Motion M-38.

In order to be successful in passing this motion through Parliament, I am going to need your help. If you support restrictions on PBDE production and importation, I am asking you to support my motion.

Thank you very much for your time. Please feel free to contact my office if you require any further information.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Julian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Peter Julian, MP  
Burnaby – New Westminster



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

HAROLD A. SCHAIBERGER  
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VINCENT J. BOLLON  
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May 22, 2007

The Hon. Peter Julian, MP  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Julian:

This letter on behalf of Canada's professional fire fighters is in strong support of your private member's motion, M-38, that calls on the federal government to completely phase out the production and import of items containing Polybrominated Diphenylethers (PBDEs).

The International Association of Fire Fighters, headquartered in Ottawa, Ontario and Washington, DC, represents more than 280,000 full-time professional fire fighters across North America, including 20,000 in Canada. Our union is concerned about health and safety of our members as well as the health and safety of all citizens. Accordingly, the IAFF believes that the passage of legislation banning brominated flame retardants, including Penta-, Octa-, and Deca-BDEs, is a step in the right direction for improving the health and safety of our fire fighters and the citizens we are sworn to protect.

One of the primary applications of PBDEs is as a flame retardant applied inside or onto many common household goods (furniture foam; plastic cabinets; computers and small appliance; consumer electronics; wire insulation; and back coatings for draperies and upholstery) to reduce and retard the amount of flame spread. While these chemicals inhibit the formation and spread of flames, they do not completely prevent fires. Unlike other flame retardants, when PBDEs burn they release dense fumes and black smoke that reduce visibility and a highly corrosive gas known as hydrogen bromide.

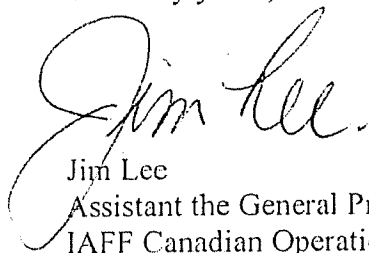
In addition, PBDEs produce highly toxic byproducts of incomplete combustion. Although use of flame retardants saves lives and property, there have been unintended consequences. There is evidence that PBDEs persist in the environment and accumulate in living organisms, as well as toxicological testing that indicates these chemicals may cause liver toxicity, thyroid toxicity, and neurodevelopmental toxicity.

Many studies involving fire fighters exposed to these and other toxic gases during active fire fighting, overhaul, and long term exposure from these chemicals penetrating protective gear, have found that fire fighters have a much greater risk of contracting cancer, heart and lung disease, and other debilitating diseases. While we support the concept of flame retardant chemicals, there are alternatives that do not contain bromine or chlorine and are much safer for fire fighters and the public than PBDEs.

The IAFF salutes those companies that have stopped using brominated flame retardants (such as Dell, Hewlett-Packard and Ikea) and are now using safer alternative fire retardants. These companies demonstrate that alternative flame-retardant technologies for achieving fire safety standards do exist and are readily available for other manufactured products.

For these reasons, the International Association of Fire Fighters fully supports your initiative in motion M-38 to completely phase out the production and import of items containing PBDEs in Canada.

Sincerely yours,



Jim Lee  
Assistant the General President  
IAFF Canadian Operations

c.c. Harold A. Schaitberger, IAFF General President  
Erik Lamar, IAFF Acting Chief of Staff  
Jim Fennell, IAFF 15<sup>th</sup> District Vice President  
Bruce Carpenter, IAFF 13<sup>th</sup> District Vice President  
Lorne West, IAFF 6<sup>th</sup> District Vice President  
Al Leier, President, British Columbia Professional Fire Fighters Association  
Craig MacDonald, President, Alberta Fire Fighters Association  
Gerry Huget, President, Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association  
Dave Naaykens, President, Manitoba Professional Fire Fighters Association  
Fred LeBlanc, President, Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association  
John McCarthy, President, Atlantic Provinces Professional Fire Fighters Association  
Michael Hurley, President, IAFF Local 323 Burnaby

List of British Columbian municipalities in support of M-38

City of Burnaby  
City of Nanaimo  
City of North Vancouver  
Corporation of Delta  
Municipality of Whistler  
City of Campbell River  
Town of Ladysmith  
Town of Oliver  
District of Coldstream  
Village of Pouce Coupe  
City of Revelstoke  
District of Elkford  
City of Armstrong  
District of Chetwynd  
Village of Zeballos  
Iqaluit, Nunavut Territory  
District of Powell River  
Bowen Island Municipality  
Village of Cumberland  
Town of Comox  
Municipality of North Cowichan