



Written testimony of Mark Rossi, PhD, Clean Production Action, before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 2, 2009, in support of: Senate Bill 919, An Act Phasing Out the Use of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers.

**“Electronics and Textiles Industry are Moving Away from PBDEs: Government Action needed to Level the Playing Field”**

**Mark Rossi**

**The production and use of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) are phasing down. Yet without government action, manufacturers will continue to produce and use these chemicals.**

PentaBDE (pentabromodiphenyl ether) and octaBDE (octabromodiphenyl ether) are no longer manufactured or sold in the U.S. and Europe. Residual production of these compounds may be happening in China or other developing countries. But these markets will close down when pentaBDE and octaBDE are added to the list of substances targeted for phase-out by international treaty -- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) -- in May 2009.

**For the last remaining PBDE of market concern, decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE), safer alternatives are widely available on the market. The two major end uses for decaBDE are electronic enclosures (primarily TVs) and textiles. Washington State, State of Maine, and the State of Illinois have all determined that technically viable and safer alternatives are available to these uses.**

In December 2008, Washington State issued its report that concluded that safer alternatives are available to decaBDE in TV applications. Fortunately, **many manufacturers -- but not all -- have made or are making the transition away from decaBDE in electronics enclosures, including:**

- Sony
- Panasonic
- Sharp
- Phillips
- Dell
- Hewlett Packard
- Apple
- Sony Ericsson
- Nokia
- Lenovo
- Toshiba
- Samsung

Government action to restrict the use of decaBDE is needed to ensure that all manufacturers make the transition to safer alternatives.

Additionally government action is needed to ensure that decaBDE does not penetrate the residential textiles market. For example, mattress manufacturers currently do not use decaBDE. For example, none of the mattress manufacturers listed below use decaBDE:

- Sealy
- Simmons
- Serta
- Tempur-Pedic
- Select Comfort
- King Koil
- Therapedic
- Kingsdown
- Englander

**Government action is needed to ensure that decaBDE does not move into the textiles market.**

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