

# THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE


1875 I STREET, NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, DC 20006  
202/457-4800 • 800/424-9876

SAMUEL D. CHILCOTE, JR.  
President

August 13, 1992

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Members of the Executive Committee

FROM: Samuel D. Chilcote, Jr. 

---

This is to update you on a number of recent events that are relevant to the fire safety issue.

1. On Tuesday, August 11, the House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, chaired by Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO), held a hearing on the subject of "Fire Safety: Protecting Our Children and Families." Witnesses represented the U.S. Fire Administration, the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) and the Louisville, Ky., Fire Department.

Testimony focused on the need for greater fire safety in the home, including use and maintenance of smoke detectors, increased use of sprinklers and better public fire safety education. Minnesota State Fire Marshal Tom Brace, testifying as vice president of NASFM, praised Philip Morris for its grant to NASFM last year that allowed the association to distribute 85,000 smoke detectors and batteries to needy homes in 27 states.

Except for Rep. Schroeder's opening statement, which mentioned "lowering the ignition potential of cigarettes" as one of a list of "effective steps toward reducing the threat of fire and burns," there was no mention of "fire-safe" cigarettes by the hearing participants. However, a fact sheet prepared by Committee staff for the hearing made several mentions of careless smoking fire deaths and lowering cigarette ignition potential.

2. On Monday, August 10, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3360, the "Federal Fire Safety Act" sponsored by Rep. Rick Boucher (D-VA), which would require sprinklers and smoke detectors in most new or renovated federal buildings and public housing. Earlier this year, Boucher was honored by the Congressional Fire Services Institute as "Legislator of the Year" for his advocacy of legislation important to the fire service.

H.R. 3360 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

The Members of the Executive Committee  
August 13, 1992  
Page 2

3. Earlier this month, the National Association of State Fire Marshals submitted a petition to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) requesting that the CPSC initiate rulemaking proceedings to establish federal upholstered furniture flammability regulations. The NASFM petition proposes that CPSC base such regulations on California Bureau of Home Furnishings standards that have been in effect since 1977. NASFM is seeking the support of other fire service and consumer safety organizations. The CPSC is required to decide whether to grant or deny the petition within a "reasonable time."

We will continue to keep you posted on these and other developments.

SDC/kfs

cc: Members of the Management Committee  
Committee of Counsel  
TI Senior Staff