

CH93-1-28

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To petition FP93-1

September 23, 1993

Office of the Secretary
Consumer Products Safety Commission
Washington, D.C. 20207

Dear Secretary:

The Fire Fighters Association of New Jersey supports Federal Upholstered Furniture Flammable Standards at least as tough as those used by the State of California and should cover both smoldering and open flame ignitions. The Fire Fighters Association of New Jersey represents 4000 career fire fighters within the State.

If the California Standard is put into effect, lives will be saved. If the California Upholstered Furniture Flammable Standards had been in effect nationwide for the past ten years, there would be just two fire deaths per state on an average annually related to upholstered furniture. That would be a ninefold reduction in the current national rate. It can be done right now.

The furniture industry obviously has the ability to make its furniture safer. After all, it sells upholstered furniture in California. The voluntary approach hasn't worked. Many furniture manufacturers have ignored the program. Upholstered furniture meeting the voluntary standards consistently fail flammability tests conducted by the State of California and the Commission.

A single nationwide standard makes much more sense than a state by state patchwork of regulations. Here in New Jersey, the Fire Fighters have supported the California Standard for five

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NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

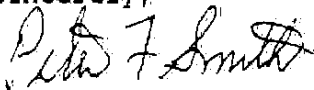
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years; however, have been unable to secure it's passage because it has been blocked by the nursing home industry.

We, the Fire Fighters Association of New Jersey, have seen many, many fires in upholstered furniture that were caused by cigarettes that certainly would not have happened if this standard were passed. We urge the Commission to act soon to adopt and enforce standards for all upholstered furniture.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. With kind regards, I remain ...

Sincerely,



Peter F. Smith
President

cc: Upholstered Furniture Fires Project
National Association of State Fire Marshalls
925 Madison Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

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