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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Colleague:

These Fires Can be Prevented Please support H.R. 293, The Fire Safe Cigarette Act

On May 17, a fire caused by a careless smoker killed two people in an old hotel in the San Francisco area. According to fire investigators, the blaze, one of the worst in the city's history, was caused by one of the victims who was smoking in bed.

On March 6, a 47 year old handicapped woman was killed in a fire that resulted from the cigarette she dropped onto a chair. Officials reported that the fire smouldered for hours and eventually spread throughout the house.

On February 23, an apartment fire started by a cigarette killed a man and injured six others. The man was burned so badly that the dental records had to be checked in order to confirm his identity.

In Utah, a father and his three children (ages 8, 5, & 3) were killed when a burning cigarette ignited a couch as the four victims were sleeping.

Each year thousand of people are killed or seriously injured from fires caused by carelessly discarded digarettes. According to the 1984 statistics provided by the National Fire Protection Association, digarette related fires claimed 1,506 lives, caused 3,559 serious injuries, and resulted in \$402 million of destroyed property. All too often, blameless victims are killed from this needless destruction.

H.R. 293 implements the recommendations of the Technical Study Group's report to Congress which call for the development of a standard test method to determine cigarette ignition propensity. The Act then requires the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue a standard for fire safe cigarettes within one year of enactment. One year thereafter cigarette manufacturers would be required to comply with such standards.

The Fire Safe Cigarette Act takes the necessary steps to prevent the loss of life from cigarette related fires. I hope you will join me in the effort and endorse H.R. 293, The Fire Safe Cigarette Act. Please contact Ellen Williams at x5-8273 if you would like to be a cosponsor.

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY Member of Congress 50868 647

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