

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Rep. D'Amelio to Environment Committee: Phase Out of Fire Retardant Threatens Chemtura Corp. Jobs**



#### *Proposal would Phase Out Production of deca-PBDE Fire Retardant at Chemtura Corp. in Middlebury*

A measure that would phase out the production, sale or use of products containing the fire retardant deca-PBDE in Connecticut would threaten 700 jobs at the Chemtura Corporation in Middlebury if the legislation becomes law, state Representative Anthony J. D'Amelio, R-71<sup>st</sup> District, said today.

Representative D'Amelio's remarks came in testimony before the state legislature's Environment Committee, which held a public hearing on the measure (House Bill 5805) Friday, March 7, 2008.

The Chemtura Corporation is one of the three largest producers of the chemical decapolybrominated diphenyl ether, commonly known as deca-PBDE, said Representative D'Amelio, whose district includes Middlebury, where the Chemtura Corporation is located.

"On behalf of the 700 Chemtura employees, I want to restate my concerns about causing harm to a Connecticut company that produces the most effective fire retardant available today, [and] which has been determined to be safe by well-respected independent experts in this field in both the United States and abroad," Representative D'Amelio said.

Representative D'Amelio said he has learned that "deca-PBDE is the most studied flame retardant on the market. Studies conducted by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U. S. National Academy of Sciences and the European Union have all concluded that it presents no significant risks to humans or the environment. In addition, it is the most effective flame retardant available."

"Even our own Department of Public Health, in a 2006 public hearing on this issue, opposed the ban. A department spokesperson stated that an enforced phase out of deca-PBDE is problematic because it is extensively used in certain consumer products and, to date, safer and [more] effective alternatives have not been identified," Representative D'Amelio said.