



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SPRINGFIELD 62706**

**ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH  
GOVERNOR**

**MARCH 3, 2006**

Doug Scott, Director  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
1021 N. Grand Avenue  
Springfield, IL 62702

Dear Director Scott,

Thank you for submitting your agency's report, "DecaBDE Study: A Review of Available Scientific Research," in response to the Brominated Fire Retardant Prevention Act (P.A. 94 100). Last year, I was pleased to sign this Act that banned two types of brominated flame retardants known to threaten human health and the environment.

As the Act required, Illinois EPA assessed the environmental and health effects of a third type of brominated flame retardant, DecaBDE, that is still used in many common household and consumer products, including textiles and electronics such as televisions and computers.

The report, which determined that people are exposed to DecaBDE through their diet, their homes and workplaces, concluded that uncertainty about the health effects of DecaBDE exposure is cause for concern. I am encouraged, however, by the finding that safer, effective alternatives to DecaBDE may exist that can still meet fire protection standards.

The report found that significant data gaps exist regarding the safety of DecaBDE and the availability of less toxic alternatives, therefore it is important for the protection of public health that we continue our efforts to determine the true risks of DecaBDE and to identify safer substitutes.

In keeping with the General Assembly's support for state adoption of a "precautionary approach" regarding brominated fire retardants, I am instructing Illinois EPA to conduct a follow-up study to answer critical questions that remain about the environmental and health effects of DecaBDE. We must determine whether safer alternatives are available so that manufacturers can reduce their reliance on toxic flame retardant chemicals while still ensuring their products meet fire safety standards.

If the study finds that alternatives to DecaBDE that meet fire protection standards are available, affordable and less toxic, then Illinois EPA should take the necessary steps to develop rules requiring use of these alternatives. Please submit this follow-up study to me and the Illinois General Assembly by January 31, 2007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Blagojevich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "R".

Rod R. Blagojevich  
Governor