Thanks to the *Environmental Health Strategy Center* and to YOU – our members, supporters and allies!

Toxic flame retardant chemicals in everyday products threaten the health of children, pregnant women and fire fighters, while costing billions of dollars in related health care expenses. The good news? We can improve fire safety without poisoning our families and first responders. Maine has led the way!

√ *Ten years ago, Maine banned Penta in couches*

The *Environmental Health Strategy Center* drafted legislation for Rep. Hannah Pingree and led the campaign to phase-out of all brominated flame retardants. In 1998, a shocking rise in PBDEs in human breast milk was first detected. These widely used toxic chemicals included Penta and Deca. In 2004, Maine became the second state to ban Penta in the foam cushions of couches and upholstered furniture, just after California. But, industry switched to other toxic chemicals instead of truly safer alternatives, revealing a broken safety system.

√ *In 2007, Maine banned Deca in TVs and computers*

The *Environmental Health Strategy Center* proved that safer alternatives were available for Deca. Teaming up again with Rep. Hannah Pingree, we led a legislative campaign to phase it out. The chemical industry spent more than $250,000 on full-page ads and mailers trying to deceive lawmakers. Maine fire fighters joined health advocates in pushing back – and we won! Maine and Washington became the first two states in the country to ban Deca in TVs, computers, mattress pads, and furniture. The law also allows a ban on other toxic flame retardants when safer alternatives are found available.

John Martell, President, Professional Fire Fighters of Maine
√ In 2010, Maine banned Deca in plastic pallets

When House Speaker Hannah Pingree called again, the Environmental Health Strategy Center responded! The chemical industry found a rapidly growing new use for Deca as a flame retardant in shipping pallets made from plastic instead of wood. Working closely with the Speaker, we passed a first-in-the-nation law to phase out the use of Deca in plastic shipping pallets. The law also requires that safer alternatives replace Deca, with preference given to avoiding toxic bromine and chlorine.

√ We took the Deca fight nationwide – and won!

With help from the Environmental Health Strategy Center, Congresswoman Chellie Pingree introduced federal legislation to phase out Deca, based on Maine’s leadership. In response to this growing public concern, the major chemical manufacturers agreed to stop making Deca by December 31, 2013!

NEXT UP: Fix Our Broken Chemical Safety System

It shouldn’t take 15 years to ban one group of toxic chemicals! Parents have a right to know that all the products they buy are safe for their families. That’s why Maine passed the Kid Safe Products Act, sponsored in 2008 by Rep. Pingree, and banned BPA in baby bottles and sippy cups. But Maine can’t go it alone. The Environmental Health Strategy Center now helps lead the national campaign to overhaul the failed federal Toxic Substances Control Act.

Safer Products, Healthy Families - It’s up to YOU!

The Environmental Health Strategy Center fights hard for chemical reform at the state and national levels. In every campaign, we’re honored to work with a robust network of supporters – moms, dads, nurses, doctors, workers, scientists, and other concerned folks. By spreading the word, penning an Op-ed or letter to the editor, making a donation, and talking to your legislators, voices like yours make all the difference. Join us at www.preventharm.org!