



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.  
Acting Secretary

Anthony G. Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

February 8, 2011

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chairperson  
Members of the House Environmental Matters Committee  
House Economic Matters Committee  
Room 231, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Letter of Information, House Bill 54: Environment - Decabrominated Diphenyl Ether - Trace Amounts**

Dear Delegate Hubbard and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment supports HB 54 which adds an allowable *de minimus* concentration of one tenth of 1% to the existing controls on deca-BDE. This will facilitate recycling as allowed in the existing statute and remove regulatory uncertainty where the concentrations clearly indicate that deca-BDE was not added as a flame retardant. We have heard credible concerns from various industrial interests and believe this will address their concerns without in any way compromising the intent of the existing statute.

Thank you for your consideration of this information as you review HB 1527. Please contact me at 410-260-6301 or [lnissley@mde.state.md.us](mailto:lnissley@mde.state.md.us) if you would like to discuss any of these issues further.

Sincerely,

Lisa Nissley

Cc: Richard Eskin, Director, Air and Radiation Management Administration  
Heather Barthel, Director, Legislation and Policy

