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Cline and Duplissea are governmental affairs representatives for Duraflame, Inc. a manufacturer of clean-burning firelogs. Following are our comments on the Report to the Legislature on AB 1173 (Keeley) in 2002.

Duraflame, Inc. is a manufacturer of clean-burning firelogs for use in residential fireplaces. Our studies have shown that Duraflame firelogs burn 60% to 75% cleaner than cordwood and produce significantly less particulate matter into the outdoor and indoor environments. We believe strongly that governmental recommendations urging cleaner air should encourage use of cleaner burning products as opposed to more draconian bans of combustible products.

Duraflame is an environmentally conscious industry leader in recycling previously burned or disposed of wood products into aesthetic clean-burning products.

We have publicly testified at hearings of air quality districts and the California Air Resources Board in support of two-stage curtailment of burning, with a voluntary first stage reduction, with use of clean-burning firelogs, and a second stage mandatory curtailment of all burning when the AQI reaches >150.

Based on our research we do not believe that manufactured firelogs are a contributor to indoor air pollution. Properly vented wood-burning appliances contribute to more complete combustion and therefore less particulate matter released into the outdoor ambient air and contributes to virtually no adverse indoor effects.

There is no question that improperly vented combustion appliances and uneducated and improper indoor burning can cause serious and fatal CO episodes in closed environments, and each year CO poisonings are reported in the print and electronic media. ¹

Duraflame supports common sense and scientifically based recommendations for clean-burning products and appliances used for indoor and outdoor combustion ambiance and heating. We further believe that banning fireplaces in new construction is acute over-kill to the exclusion of two-stage restrictions on burning in sensitive areas.

Authorization to establish indoor Air Quality standards would create a large, intrusive and potentially expensive bureaucracy to control living standards for the general public, with scant health benefits. Mandates, which sharply impact personal habits are difficult to enforce in an in-home environment and governmental enforcement funding would have to compete with other, established public needs for tax revenue.

Recommendations for establishment of Innovative Clean Air Technology ². should include a balance of new and existing products which are clean-burning, such as manufactured firelogs. We strongly suggest that consideration be given to middle-ground solutions which have scant controversy and more easy public acceptance.

1. Pg 52 – 53 Indoor Air Pollution in California, report of the California Air Resources Board, Nov. 2004
2. Pg 156, #18 Ibid.