

G. K. BUTTERFIELD
1ST DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

413 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3301
(202) 225-3101
FACSIMILE: (202) 225-3354

www.house.gov/butterfield



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY,
AND THE INTERNET
COMMERCE, TRADE
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

COMMITTEE ON
STANDARDS OF
OFFICIAL CONDUCT

U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION

October 25, 2010

Fire Safety Advocates

RE: New Fire Safety Technology

I am writing to express my support for new cooking technology that has proven to reduce stove top fires, the number one cause of household fire in our state and in our nation.

Specifically, new stove top technology currently exists that is being hindered by stove manufacturers and ignored by existing agencies and regulators. If installed in public housing, college dormitories and other publicly operated and subsidized/funded dwellings the number of stove top fires would be greatly reduced, according to the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs.

I would like to see federal agencies such as Housing and Urban Development and Department of Energy – and its counterpart state agencies – recognize and amend their regulations to allow for this technology to be installed in public housing where our citizens are most vulnerable.

Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fire injuries, according to the NC Association of Fire Chiefs. These fires accounted for 40% of all reported home structure fires and 36% of home civilian injuries.

Tested affordable technology for electric coil ranges now exists that is drastically reducing the number of these fires and burned food incidents in public, university, seniors and military housing throughout the country by reducing the high end temperature at which burners operate with no appreciable difference in cooking times or quality. Additionally, the high-end heat regulation technology currently available can reduce the amount of energy used by as much as 50%.

A reduction in household fire will mean a reduction in the costs related to household fire (building damage/repair, relocation, fire service/EMS calls, nuisance calls/false alarms); a reduction in citizen and fire fighter injury/death; a reduction in insurance premiums and/or reduction in premium increases; a reduction in hospital visits; and as a result, a reduction in the tax payer dollars required to support all of the above.

Addressing the number one cause of household fire in North Carolina will have long reaching benefits for the health of our citizens, our rank and file fire fighters, the environment and importantly our economy as a whole.

As you can see, this program is critically important to my District. Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

DISTRICT OFFICES

216 WEST NASH STREET
SUITE B
WILSON, NC 27893
TELEPHONE: (252) 237-9816
FACSIMILE: (252) 291-0356

309 WEST THIRD STREET
WELDON, NC 27890
TELEPHONE: (252) 538-4123
FACSIMILE: (252) 538-6516