



DANNEL P. MALLOY  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

June 15, 2012

The Honorable Denise Merrill  
Secretary of the State  
30 Trinity Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Madam Secretary:

I hereby return, without my signature, House Bill 5248, *An Act Concerning Foamed-In-Place Insulating Material*. This bill allows for the use of formaldehyde-based insulating materials currently banned under state law. Formaldehyde is emitted by a number of products that can be found in the home, including building materials, cigarettes, stoves, heaters, furniture and clothing. While the level of emissions from some products may be safe, in the aggregate, the formaldehyde emissions in a home can reach levels that have a negative effect on human health. Long known health consequences of exposure to unsafe levels of formaldehyde include asthma attacks; eye, nose and throat irritation; wheezing and coughing; fatigue, skin rash, and severe allergic reactions. In 2011, the National Institutes of Health also recognized formaldehyde as a known carcinogen.

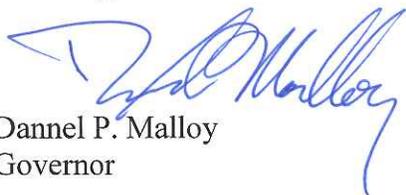
Connecticut made a decision in 1981 to ban the use of urea formaldehyde foam insulation (UFFI) because the level of formaldehyde emissions produced by these products was considered significant and a risk to human health. These products were banned across the country and some states went so far as to require the removal of this type of insulation. Since that time, new foamed-in-place insulating products that contain formaldehyde have come onto the market claiming to produce fewer formaldehyde emissions. If such products are going to be allowed for use in Connecticut, it should only be after satisfying the most stringent testing methods in order to protect the health of our residents, which this bill fails to require.

House Bill 5248 does require any foamed-in-place insulating material to be certified as having met satisfactory emissions standards before it can be used in Connecticut. Unfortunately, this requirement is both inadequate and overly broad. The testing methods listed in the bill to ensure that such products satisfy safe emissions standards are not the most stringent in the industry. And the immediate application of this requirement to non-formaldehyde based products will cause delay on construction projects currently underway across the state.

Requiring all foamed-in-place insulating materials, and any other building materials used in homes and businesses, to meet adequate emissions standards is laudable and should be considered through a publicly open process. But allowing products that contain a known safety hazard onto the market without being subject to the most stringent testing methods in order to ensure the safety of Connecticut residents is a risk I cannot support.

For these reasons, I disapprove of House Bill 5248, *An Act Concerning Foamed-In-Place Insulating Material*. Pursuant to Section 15 of Article Fourth of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, I am returning House Bill 5248 without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dannel P. Malloy". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor