



**Statement of the
National Association of State Fire Marshals
on the Report of the American Home Furnishings Alliance
Stakeholders Meeting of July 2007**

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) welcomes the furniture industry's plan to address the continuing loss of ten Americans each week to fires involving polyurethane foam and products containing it.

We regard the report from the July 25, 2007, American Home Furnishings Alliance stakeholders' meeting as a clear message that the industry now acknowledges that:

- The Upholstered Furniture Action Council's voluntary standard no longer is appropriate. We agree. While some reductions in losses have been achieved, the losses remain at ten deaths a week.
- Mandatory, national approaches serve all interests. Again, we agree.
- Third party testing is critical to enforcement. We completely agree. By turning to Underwriters Laboratories, the industry has recognized the value of utilizing the resources of a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory operating under the rules of the American National Standards Institute.
- Environmental considerations are important. We are especially pleased to see the industry working with Friends of the Earth (FOE). The furniture industry's support of FOE may lead to greater cooperation on ending illegal forestry practices and addressing important worker safety issues such as those related to the use of TDI in the manufacturing of polyurethane foam.

We also appreciate the industry's support of the legislative amendment we sought that will allow the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to function for the next six months with just two Commissioners. But even if the CPSC was willing to ignore 14 years of its staff's work and move forward with a proposed regulation today, we will continue to lose ten lives each week while the process moves forward. That is why so many fire service organizations are urging President Bush to promptly nominate former New York State Fire Administrator James Burns as the next chair of the Commission.

Therefore, we are most appreciative that leading home furnishings retailers and manufacturers continue to work with NASFM on some of the short-term safety solutions available to us, especially in the areas of transportation and the safety of retail stores and warehouses.

In coming weeks, we expect that a report on the federal investigation of the Charleston, SC, Sofa Superstore fire will be released, and we will have a fresh chance to discuss the very poor fire performance of products containing polyurethane foam. As a sign of good faith, AHFA and NASFM worked together to demonstrate our joint commitment to public safety as the news media descended on that tragedy. Those sad moments are a model for how we should move forward together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Dean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent part.

John C. Dean, President
August 6, 2007