Aerovox® INDUSTRIES, INC.

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September 7, 1976

Mr. Robert Seaman
Administrator
Energy Research Development Administration
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Seaman:

According to reports from the Federal Energy Administration, your organization is funding contracts to develop suitable substitutes for polychlorinated biphenyls in alternating current capacitors. As you are probably aware, both versions of the Toxic Substances Act ban the use of PCBs two years after enactment. With the fire hazard that appears to be present in all the alternative materials, a solution to the problem is necessary immediately. At present, the only hope that I have is for a reliable, protective device that will disconnect the capacitor from the circuit in case of a fault. None of the scientists with whom I have talked have given me any hope of achieving a non flammable impregnant that won't have an even greater environmental problem that PCBs.

I would very much appreciate any information you can provide on your efforts to find a suitable replacement for PCBs, including the names of organizations conducting the research, the scope of the research and the results. I make this request as Chairman of the Electronic Industries Association Ad Hoc Committee on PCBs.

In addition, I suggest that you may want to have representatives in attendance if we are successful in presenting films by Westinghouse and the Underwriters Laboratories documenting the flammability problem of non PCB impregnants; these films cover AC utility type capacitors and small industrial AC capacitors respectively. As you can see from the attached letter, the Consumer Product Safety Commission is interested in this aspect, and I hope that, either they, or the Department of Commerce, can arrange the presentation of this material.

MONS 093427

Your interest and co-operation in this matter is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

AEROVOX INDUSTRIES, INC.

Clifford H. Tuttle
President

CHT/eb
Attachment

CC: Honorable Elliot Richardson

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