

Federal Bill Would Ban Use Of Polychlorinated Biphenyls

WASHINGTON (FNS) — A permanent Federal ban on interstate distribution or importation of certain chemicals used in fire retardant compounds and water repellent treatments is being sought by Rep. William Ryan (D., N.Y.).

The chemicals, polychlorinated biphenyls, (PCB's) are produced by Monsanto Co., according to Ryan, for use in general plasticized applications, coatings for fabrics, fire retardant compounds, water-repellent treatment for camping materials and other uses, including pesticides.

He sponsored a bill (H.R. 8576) to impose such a ban which Ryan said is needed because PCB's and their residue are extremely toxic to animal life and may produce fatal effects in human beings.