

TO: House Regulatory Reform Committee

FROM: Derek Dalling on behalf of The Home Depot

DATE: February 20, 2024 RE: Senate Bill 328

Senate Bill 328 requires retailers like The Home Depot to restrict the sale of solely battery powered smoke alarms. The Home Depot and other similar retailers would sell smoke alarms that have a minimum lifespan of 10 years, are factory-sealed, with a non-removable power supply, and have a guaranteed decade of performance. The Home Depot supports SB 328 and its greater purpose of preventing unnecessary deaths in home fires where homes did not have working smoke alarms.

The Home Depot is committed to keeping homes safe, and The Home Depot believes that modern smoke alarms with a sealed battery and a guaranteed decade long lifespan greatly removes opportunity for human error or forgetfulness. The Home Depot supports first responders throughout the state, and fire fighters support SB 328 because working smoke alarms significantly increase the odds of surviving a fire.

Additionally, The Home Depot understands that SB 328 provides exemptions for electrically powered smoke alarms, for professionally monitored smoke alarm systems, and other technologically advanced smoke alarms using wi-fi, low-power radio frequency wireless communication signals or other wireless local area networking capabilities to send and receive notifications to and from the internet.

The Home Depot also appreciates that SB 328 provides for 18 months after enactment for the bill to take effect. Traditional smoke alarms should have batteries changed every 6 months or approximately each time we set our clocks forward or back. The Home Depot believes this 18-month window provides it with ample time for its stores to sell through existing inventory and make the necessary changes to stock only the new, modern smoke alarms with a 10-year lifespan.

Michigan would not be alone in adoption of the life saving 10-year lifespan smoke alarms. Legislation similar to SB 328 has been enacted in 14 other states, including other Midwestern states like Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

For all of these reasons, The Home Depot supports SB 328 and respectfully requests your support for this bill to make customer homes safer. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

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