



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION 90

2 WHEREAS, The National Institute for Occupational Safety
3 and Health (NIOSH) has investigated reports of respiratory
4 diseases among workers exposed to artificial butter flavoring
5 used in microwave popcorn; and

6 WHEREAS, In the case of a microwave popcorn processing
7 plant in Missouri, NIOSH determined that workers' illnesses
8 were due to inhalation of vapors from artificial butter
9 flavoring; diacetyl, a chemical in the flavoring, has been
10 linked to the illnesses; and

11 WHEREAS, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has
12 initiated a study to measure the types and amounts of chemicals
13 emitted when microwave popcorn is popped and opened; and

14 WHEREAS, Containment of harmful fumes and substances in
15 microwave popcorn processing plants, adequate ventilation, and
16 face and lung protection for workers have shown promise in
17 reducing the risks faced by workers; and

18 WHEREAS, To protect the workers of this State, the extent
19 of the risks to workers in Illinois should be determined;
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
22 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
23 we urge the United States Department of Labor to determine the
24 extent to which workers are exposed to harmful chemicals at
25 microwave popcorn processing plants in Illinois; and be it
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That we urge the U.S. Department of Labor to
28 consider whether emergency or other rules or any other measures
29 are needed to protect the health of those workers and to report

1 its findings and conclusions to this body; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be delivered to
3 the U.S. Secretary of Labor.