



## National Candle Association

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### **NCA Statement Refuting Study by South Carolina State Researchers Suggesting Candles May Be Carcinogenic or Release Harmful Pollutants**

The National Candle Association seriously questions the scientific validity of a report by two South Carolina State University researchers\* suggesting that candles, especially paraffin candles, can release carcinogens or harmful amounts of indoor air pollutants.

The assertions of Drs. Massoudi and Hamidi contradict the overwhelming body of scientific evidence on the topic. They have provided no data for review, and their conclusions are based on unsupported claims. No scientific study has ever shown any candle wax, including paraffin, to be harmful to human health.

An authoritative international study in 2007 tested candles made from every major wax type and analyzed them for more than 300 chemicals known or suspected of toxicity, health risks or respiratory irritation at elevated concentrations. The study found that all waxes burned cleanly and safely, with no appreciable differences in burning behavior. The combustion byproducts of every candle wax were virtually identical in composition and quantity, with all levels registering far below the most restrictive of any applicable indoor-air standards.

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\* Emission products of petroleum-based candles, Ruhullah Massoudi and Amid Hamidi, South Carolina State University, presentation before American Chemical Society symposium session, 2:15- 2:35 p.m., Wednesday, Aug 19, 2009; Washington, DC.