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SB 2174-82 RELATING TO FIREWORKS

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Judiciary
Public Hearing - 8 March 1982

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SB 2174-82 proposes to ban all fireworks throughout the State. This statement has been reviewed by the Environmental Center's Legislative Subcommittee, but does not represent an institutional position of the University.

The decision whether or not to ban fireworks as proposed involves a subjective judgement as to the relative values of human health and of religious observances and recreational opportunities. On such a judgement the Environmental Center cannot appropriately offer advice. However, we suggest that, if something like SB 2174 is to be passed, we suggest that the bill be revised in two particulars:

1. We suggest that the definition of fireworks be amended so as to exclude explosive emergency signalling devices (flares).
2. Section 2 would prohibit the sale or use of fireworks, with no exceptions. We feel that it would be more practical to include a paragraph relating to exemptions for public displays, regulated by a permit process.