

a voice for the fashion jewelry industry

An organization has been formed to lobby state and city governments that are putting jewelry manufacturers, importers and suppliers in the crosshairs over lead content in their products.

The FASHION JEWELRY TRADE ASSOCIATION, formerly the Joint Jewelry Defense Group, was formed in February of this year to negotiate with officials in California, New York, Minnesota and Illinois about proposed legislation setting standards for lead content in jewelry and other products.

Michael Gale, a member of the fashion jewelry and accessory industry with decades of experience as a sales representative, has been appointed executive director of the new association.

Mr. Gale states to the industry, "We must join together to fight illogical legislation or we will suffer individually."

The issue of lead content in jewelry surfaced in early 2004 when California filed legal action against major retailers for violations of Proposition 65, a law that has been in effect 20 years. In January 2006 a consent agreement was signed with the retailers and many of their suppliers setting standards for lead content.

Since that time legislation has been introduced in other states and has been proposed in the city of Chicago, each with different standards for lead content. "The industry must join together in self-preservation to create leverage and establish a common standard. Just putting out brush fires will not solve the problem" states Michael Gale.

Next month we will take an in depth look at the lead issue, including some lead-grey clouds that hover above some cities and states and the jewelry industry.

For information about joining the FASHION JEWELRY TRADE ASSOCIATION and a membership form contact Michael Gale at 401-295-4564 or E-mail fjta@aol.com