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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3810

October 31, 2007

Chairman Nancy Nord
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Directorate for Laboratory Sciences
10901 Darnestown Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Dear Chairman Nord,

I am writing to ask you to reconsider your decision to oppose legislation intended to strengthen the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission.

This legislation, the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act of 2007, was designed to help the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) meet the challenges of today's economy. It authorizes additional funding for the agency to increase staff levels to at least 500 employees by 2013, improve antiquated testing facilities and increase CPSC agents at U.S. ports of entry. While the number of products the agency regulates has increased exponentially, its abilities have deteriorated, in part, because the staff has been reduced from 900 to 420 employees. Since 2000 alone, the agency has lost 79 full-time employees.

Chairman Nord, I welcome your leadership to the organization and understand the challenges you face in keeping our consumer products safe. However, this legislation is designed to strengthen your organization and its ability to respond. I hope that you will rethink your decision to oppose it.

As a fiscal conservative, I appreciate your efforts to cut costs and keep government spending low. However, as we approach the holiday season, we must remember that the recent recalls of children's toys are a significant threat to public safety. In my district in Northeast and Central Pennsylvania, families have expressed to me their concerns about the toys on the shelves containing unhealthy levels of lead. Congress and the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission should do all that we can to keep our children safe.

It is my hope that we can work on this together to increase the effectiveness of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission so that all our children's products are safe. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (202) 225-3731.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Carney
Member of Congress

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