

June 2, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Steve Womack
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
United States House of Representatives

Dear Members of Congress,

The undersigned organizations, representing consumer organizations, environmental groups, testing laboratories and manufacturers and retailers of consumer products are strong supporters of the mission of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). We have differences of opinion as it relates to the workings of and statutory provisions relevant to the CPSC, but nonetheless strongly and uniformly agree on the need for an effective and functioning agency. There is also consensus among CPSC stakeholders that the agency is significantly underfunded and therefore short staffed compared to other federal health and safety regulatory agencies. The CPSC's current budget is by far the smallest among federal health and safety regulatory agencies. Yet the agency has a broad mandate with jurisdiction over roughly 15,000 different types of consumer products used by 330 million American consumers in everyday life.

Based on our collective experiences interacting with the staff and leadership of the CPSC—for whom we have great respect—it is clear that a substantial increase in funding is needed for an expansion of personnel to ensure the agency can effectively and efficiently serve out its mission. This is in addition to many programmatic and technological needs that separately require a funding increase. Our organizations have supported such increases to CPSC funding for years but have not done so in a coordinated effort. In an attempt to increase the urgency behind this issue, we are hopeful that this letter, representing a large swath of the universe of CPSC stakeholders, makes clear that there should be widespread and bipartisan congressional support for a properly resourced and staffed CPSC.

Sincerely,

American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)	National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
American Chemistry Council	National Center for Health Research
American Cleaning Institute	National Consumers League
American Home Furnishings Alliance	National Retail Federation
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers	Parents Against Tip-overs
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners	Public Citizen
Consumer Federation of America	Public Interest Research Group
Consumer Reports	Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)
Earthjustice	Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorated Products
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association	The Power Tool Institute
Kids In Danger	TIC Council
Natural Resources Defense Council	The Toy Association