

STATEMENT
COMMISSIONER MARY T. BOYLE

With no regard for the safety and well-being of the American public, the Trump Administration is seeking to dismantle the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). I was fired illegally last night from my Senate-confirmed position as a CPSC Commissioner after I refused to be complicit with the efforts of DOGE to destroy the agency dedicated to protecting our nation's consumers. Along with my colleague Richard Trumka, I was fired because at a Commission meeting the day before, I spoke out forcefully and unequivocally against efforts to strip the agency of qualified professionals whose work ensures that consumers can have confidence in the products they buy. Random layoffs with no rationale don't reform government; they disable it. DOGE shows no respect for expertise, no respect for public servants, no respect for the citizens our government serves and I refused to support the Acting Chair's plan to invite them to bring their wrecking ball to the agency I have loved and worked at for 15 years.

The week before, three members of the Commission supported a proposed standard and sought public comment on a measure that would add safety protections to dangerous lithium-ion batteries. Faulty lithium-ion batteries in e-bikes, e-scooters, and other micromobility devices have caused intense, rapidly spreading fires that have taken lives, caused serious injuries, and damaged property around the country. Since I became a commissioner in 2022, I have championed the need to address these very serious hazards.

My vote demonstrated allegiance to the CPSC safety mission on behalf of the American people. By voting to approve the proposed standards, I rejected the delay tactics of this administration which has put in place a so-called regulatory freeze and a byzantine process requiring White House officials to review proposed safety standards in advance. Not only is that process contrary to CPSC's statutes, it is designed to occur behind the scenes and outside of public scrutiny. This would be in stark contrast to the government-in-the sunshine ethos CPSC has long embraced. Along with my two Democratic colleagues, I voted instead to advance the safety standards and gather public comment --a practice the agency has followed for decades.

The CPSC is a small but essential government agency charged with protecting consumers from defective and dangerous products. That means: We work with consumers and companies alike to find and fix hazards; we inspect products, do recalls, write safety rules, and go to court when companies fail to protect consumers. I have dedicated myself to that mission, as a lawyer and leader in this agency, for 15 years.

Why is it important that CPSC be an independent agency? Independence means that CPSC can do its job for the public without political interference or threats. It means that safety stays front and center. Through statutory protections, Congress ensured that my decisions as an independent commissioner are protected -- from pressure that could be exerted by wealthy donors and powerful interest groups. And from the administration in power. As a bipartisan Commission, we take public input and set priorities in a published safety agenda every year. We follow processes designed for fairness to all stakeholders.

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We apply legal, scientific and policy expertise to decisions that are laser-focused on protecting people from injury and death.

Beginning on January 20, threats to this independence have come fast and furious, halting our agenda and undermining our safety work – through countless exercises designed to distract our staff and instill in them fear for their livelihoods. Meanwhile, safety hazards threaten the public and must be addressed.

Acting Chair Feldman’s refusal to follow the rulemaking path in place at the CPSC for decades is but the latest example of capitulation to the Trump Administration. His tenure as chair began with pointless scrubbing of the agency website to remove words like “gender” to comply with the dictates of executive orders. He restored past statements only after I repeatedly insisted that history cannot be obliterated. He has weakened the agency and is prepared to continue on a perilous course that will subsume CPSC in a cabinet department, curtailing our authority and abandoning the formal protections that independence has provided for over 50 years. At a recent public meeting to update the agency’s work plan, I objected repeatedly to the pointless staff cuts he is implementing, which would undercut mission-critical work and set back consumer safety.

Like the administration he seeks to impress, the Acting Chair – who has neither been nominated nor confirmed as chair -- demonstrates contempt for the very workforce he purports to lead, highlighting his unfitness for the position. He has publicly disparaged CPSC staff as “bloated” and “inefficient,” baseless claims that contradict his own past words as commissioner since 2018. His latest self-serving assertions completely mischaracterize what I know to be true: the success of this understaffed and overachieving agency is fueled by the hard work of 500 employees serving with selfless dedication to protect the public from actual and potential hazards in the millions of consumer products that Americans use every day.

My commitment to CPSC’s independence is grounded in the law. My fifteen years of experience at the agency confirm that CPSC’s independence promotes fairness and protects consumers. Until my term as commissioner concludes, I will insist on following these time-tested principles, and I will use my voice to speak out on behalf of safety.