

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 14, 2009

Commissioners of the Consumer Product Safety Commission
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Commissioners of the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

As Members of the North Carolina Congressional delegation, we thank you for the considerable work that you do to protect citizens, our constituents, from the hazards posed by unsafe consumer products. We support the goals of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) and look forward to working with you to ensure that it is implemented in the best interests of consumer protection.

We support your willingness to consider certain materials and products as inherently lead free and, therefore, exempt from the lead-testing requirements for children's products under the CPSIA. Recognizing that certain products do not contain lead will help the Commission focus on products that do pose consumer safety risks. We urge you to expedite official recognition of your staff's conclusion that unembellished dyed and undyed textile products, including socks and hosiery would fall into this category. This will enable sock and hosiery producers to direct their focus to other compliance requirements of the CPSIA, as well as additional regulatory obligations.

We also want to take this opportunity to address the tracking label provision mandated by Section 103 of the CPSIA. It is an essential part of the legislation that we believe will serve as another tool to protect and promote consumer safety. We encourage the CPSC to focus its efforts on ensuring that tracking labels are affixed to products with the highest risk of product recall. Because socks and hosiery pose little to no consumer risks and have a very low recall history, we encourage the CPSC to make allowances under the law to permit producers and importers to ensure compliance without suffering unnecessary burdens.

The sock and hosiery producers we represent have assured us that they are committed to making sure that their products are safe and that they are taking the following actions to comply with the CPSIA tracking label requirements:

- ensuring that their products are regularly tested and comply with all CPSIA standards and guidelines, so as to avert the risk of recall;
- producing the General Conformity Certificate (GCC) which provides basic traceability for socks and hosiery products; and
- affixing information regarding production location and date to all product packaging and products where practicable, such that "practicability" may be defined in large part by manufacturers, as you have allowed "accessibility to be defined under the lead-testing provision (see your statement of Commission Enforcement policy which provides that *"[u]ntil the inaccessibility guidance is finalized, the Commission staff will accept a manufacturers determination that a part is inaccessible if it is based on a reasonable*

- *interpretation of section 101(b)(2)."* We understand that The Hosiery Association has submitted comments that elaborate on this point.

Thank you again for your service, and for your consideration of our comments. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding these matters.

Sincerely,


Sen. Kay Hagan


Rep. G.K. Butterfield


Rep. Bob Etheridge


Rep. Walter B. Jones


Rep. David E. Price

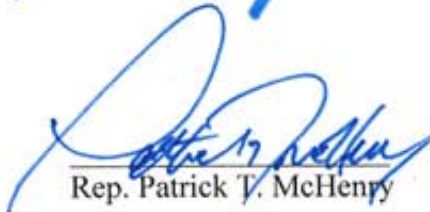

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