

Breast Cancer Fund * Consumer Federation of America * Consumers Union * Kids In Danger * National Consumers League * National Research Center for Women & Families * Natural Resources Defense Council * Public Citizen * U.S. Public Interest Research Group * Union of Concerned Scientists

August 3, 2011

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As organizations representing consumers, scientists, and advocates for children, we are writing to urge you to move quickly to nominate a Commissioner at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Commissioner Thomas Moore has served three terms as a Commissioner at the CPSC. Commissioner Moore served CPSC for sixteen years with distinction. His third term ended on October 26, 2010, but as allowed by law, Commissioner Moore has continued to serve in his current capacity. Commissioner Moore must leave the Commission one year after his term expires. Thus, on October 26, 2011, the Commission will have an unfilled Commissioner slot, which could have unfortunate consequences for the CPSC and for consumers.

If Commissioner Moore's vacancy is not filled before he must leave the CPSC, the Commission will unfortunately be hampered by a deadlock. Without a full complement of Commissioners, the agency may be prevented from making final decisions on numerous safety matters. The Commission has had close (3-2) votes about lead limits for children's products, the implementation of the consumer incident database, and extending the deadline for compliance with the crib standard. The Commission has been working hard to meet its Congressional mandates as required by the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA). This progress would not have been possible without five CPSC Commissioners in place.

The American public saw firsthand in 2007 and 2008 how important it is to have a fully funded CPSC with a full complement of Commissioners. The recalls during that time illustrated how important a robust CPSC is to protect the public from unsafe products. Fortunately, the CPSC has been reinvigorated since 2008. The agency is committed to the mission of protecting consumers from hazards posed by unsafe products. Further, the CPSC's budget has been increased allowing the agency to hire more employees to do its important work, and the passage and implementation of the CPSIA has given the CPSC more tools that have effectively been used to protect consumers. The Commission has had five Commissioners to work on these issues. A vacancy at the Commission now could place progress at the CPSC in jeopardy.

We urge you to move expeditiously to nominate a strong Commissioner to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Sincerely,

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