

Consumer Action • Consumer Federation of America • Consumers Union  
National Association of Consumer Advocates • National Consumers League  
National Consumer Law Center • Public Citizen  
U.S. Public Interest Research Group

February 1, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
Office of Senate Majority Leader  
S-221 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
Office of the Speaker  
H-232 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Republican Leader  
Office of the Senate Minority Leader  
S-230 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Democratic Leader  
Office of the Democratic Leader  
H-204 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

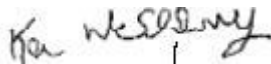
As presidents and chief executive officers of many of the nation's leading consumer organizations, we would like to thank you for your work on behalf of American consumers. As the 113<sup>th</sup> Congressional session commences, we are writing to let you know that our organizations are united in working to redouble our efforts on a host of issues most pressing to American consumers. We are enclosing this consumer agenda which we have also shared with President Obama.

As the events of the last four years have shown, weak consumer protections do not just harm individual Americans, but threaten the economic security of the entire nation. Inadequate laws and poor oversight of credit and financial services have led to a huge loss of wealth for many American families and triggered an economic recession. We hope to elevate the consumer voice in the public policy arena and help educate Americans about what is at stake in the marketplace when it comes to their health, their pocketbooks, and their safety. The agenda we are providing today is a key starting point for our recommendations regarding the top issues for consumers.

“An Agenda to Ensure Consumers Are Heard” describes several essential priorities, including protecting pocketbooks, ensuring access to justice, implementing new laws regulating food safety and product safety, and achieving the goals of the Affordable Care Act and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. We have also asked the President to reinstate the key position of the White House Special Advisor on Consumer Affairs. Consumer interests need a seat at the table and should have the President's ear.

By working together and helping consumers make more informed decisions, we are building an influential consumer movement that will be a force for change. We look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead to achieve these critical goals.

Sincerely,



Ken McEldowney  
Executive Director  
Consumer Action



Ira Rheingold  
Executive Director  
National Association of Consumer  
Advocates



Stephen Brobeck  
Executive Director  
Consumer Federation of America



Sally Greenberg  
Executive Director  
National Consumers League



Willard P. Ogburn  
Executive Director  
National Consumer Law Center  
(on behalf of its low income clients)



Robert Weissman  
President  
Public Citizen



Jim Guest  
President and CEO  
Consumers Union



Andre Delattre  
Executive Director  
U.S. PIRG

Websites and Organizational Contacts Regarding This Agenda:

Consumer Action ([www.consumer-action.org](http://www.consumer-action.org))  
Linda Sherry, Director National Priorities, 202-544-3088

Consumer Federation of America ([consumerfed.org](http://consumerfed.org))  
Rachel Weintraub, Legislative Director, 202-387-6121

Consumers Union ([consumersunion.org](http://consumersunion.org))  
Ellen Bloom, Director of Federal Policy and the Washington Office, 202-462-6262

National Association of Consumer Advocates ([naca.net](http://naca.net))  
Ira Rheingold, Executive Director, 202-452-1989 x101

National Consumers League ([nclnet.org](http://nclnet.org))  
Sally Greenberg, Executive Director, 202-835-3323

National Consumer Law Center ([nclc.org](http://nclc.org))  
Lauren Saunders, Managing Director, Washington Office, 202-452-6252

Public Citizen ([citizen.org](http://citizen.org))  
Lisa Gilbert, Director Public Citizen's Congress Watch, 202-454-5188

U.S. Public Interest Research Group ([uspirg.org](http://uspirg.org))  
Ed Mierzwinski, Consumer Program Director, 202-461-3821