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Congress of the United States
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The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Rush
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and
Consumer Protection
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman and Chairman Rush,

As you know, certain provisions in the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-314) that require manufacturers to test the lead content of products meant for children under the age of 12 are set to begin within the year. While I am supportive of strengthened product safety rules, I am concerned that the implementation of these rules may have adverse, unintended impacts. In recent weeks, I have heard from many of my constituents who are very concerned about how the implementation of these requirements will affect small American producers and sellers of children's products. Americans must be able to know that the products that they purchase for their families are safe, and while the protection of children and families from hazardous materials must be our top priority, I am hopeful that there may be a way to minimize the impact that these mandates will have on American small businesses.

Accordingly, I am writing to request that the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection hold hearings as soon as possible on the effects that this legislation will have on small American manufacturers and sellers of children's products. I also urge the Committee to work with the Consumer Product Safety Commission or to pursue legislative changes, if necessary, in order to clarify the intent of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 to minimize the effects of these new requirements on small American manufacturers and sellers of children's products, while continuing to protect children from products containing hazardous materials such as lead.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my request. Please let me know if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



J. Gresham Barrett
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce