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August 22, 2007

Mr. Danny Paszkiewicz
Chief Executive Officer
Cardinal Distributing Co.
6801 Quad Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21237

Dear Mr. Pasckiewicz:

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection of the Committee on Energy and Commerce plans to hold a hearing in September on how to address the problem of children's products, imported to the United States from China, that contain lead exceeding lawful safety standards. We are concerned that such products have flooded stores across America and pose a health risk to our children. The Subcommittee will explore all avenues, including legislative remedies, to ensure that lead-tainted children's products do not cross our borders.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued recalls for some of your company's products on April 17, 2007, and again on May 15, 2007. The children's products -- charm bracelets, sportswear necklaces, and rings -- contained lead or lead paint that exceeded the lawful consumer product safety standard. Previously, in July 2004, the CPSC issued a recall for other children's jewelry imported by your company. As part of our inquiry and to help us draft any responsive legislation, we request that you respond to the following questions by September 6, 2007.

1. In addition to the 1.2 million pieces of children's jewelry recalled by the CPSC in April and May 2007, as well as the jewelry recalled in July 2004, please provide detailed information on any other children's products imported by your company with lead paint or lead content that exceeds lawful safety standards.

2. Please provide information detailing the level of lead or lead paint in the recalled jewelry and any other products, if available.

3. Please provide the names and locations of the companies and manufacturing facilites in China, India, and other foreign countries that manufactured the jewelry recalled in 2004 and 2007.

4. Are there provisions in your agreements with overseas or other manufacturers banning the use of lead and lead paint or limiting its use to lawful safety standards in the manufacture of the products your company imports?

5. What steps does your company take to test and inspect imported jewelry or other children's products before they are sent to retail outlets in the United States to ensure compliance with lead content safety standards?

6. In its July 2004 recall announcement, the CPSC stated that the firms involved, including your firm, had "advised the Commission that they had stopped importing toy jewelry with lead and [were] committed to working with the CPSC staff on eliminating hazardous levels of lead in future importations of toy jewelry." Please outline steps taken by your company after the 2004 recall to prevent further importation of lead-tainted children's jewelry, and explain why such steps were not successful to prevent such a further importation.

7. How and when did your company discover the lead in the imported jewelry that led to the recall announcements by the CPSC in April and May of 2007? When did you first contact the CPSC about the jewelry?

8. Please provide details of the recall action undertaken by your company, including steps to inform retailers and consumers of the recall because of the lead hazard posed by the jewelry. Did you provide information in a language other than English? Did you take any specific steps to provide information to your retail partners located in underserved communities?

9. Please provide details on the consumer response to the recall since the recall announcement, including the number and nature of consumer inquiries that your company has received.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to our request. We look forward to reviewing your responses. If you have questions or wish to discuss this matter, please contact Judith Bailey or Andrew Woelfling with the Committee majority staff at (202) 225-2927, or Brian McCullough or Shannon Weinberg with the Committee minority staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,

Bobby L. Rush
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade,
and Consumer Protection

Cliff Stearns
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade
and Consumer Protection

cc: The Honorable John D. Dingell, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce

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