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August 22, 2007

Mr. Mike DePaul
Chief Executive Officer
Regents Product Corporation
8999 Palmer Avenue
River Grove, IL 60171-1926

Dear Mr. DePaul:

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 a recall for some of your company's products on March 28, 2007. The products, the "Stuffed Fun Balls," contained lead paint that exceeded the lawful consumer product safety standard. 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 approximately 7,200 Stuffed Fun Balls recalled by the CPSC in March, please provide detailed information on any toys or other 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 in the recalled toys and products, if available.

3. Please provide the name and location of the company and facility in China that manufactured the Stuffed Fun Balls.

4. Are there provisions in your agreements with the Chinese 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 toys or other children's products before they are sent to retail outlets in the United States to ensure compliance with lead level safety standards?

6. How and when did your company discover the lead paint on the imported Stuffed Fun Balls that led to the recall announcement by the CPSC on March 28, 2007? When did you first contact the CPSC about the Stuffed Fun Balls?

7. 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 Stuffed Fun Balls. 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?

8. Please provide details on the consumer response to the recall since the recall announcement, including how many Stuffed Fun Balls have been returned for a refund.

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