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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515–6115

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August 22, 2007

Mr. Bogdan Nowak
President
Rhode Island Novelty
5 Industrial Road
Cumberland, RI 02864

Dear Mr. Nowak:

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 writing 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 15, 2007. The products, Children's Mood Necklaces, contained lead 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 47,000 pieces of jewelry recalled by the CPSC in March, 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 in the recalled jewelry and any other products, if available.

3. Please provide the name and location of the company and facility in China that manufactured the Children's Mood Necklaces.

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 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?

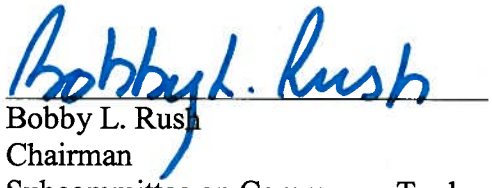
6. How and when did your company discover the lead in the imported jewelry that led to the recall announcement by the CPSC on March 15, 2007? When did you first contact the CPSC about the Children's Mood Necklaces?

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 Children's Mood Necklaces. 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?

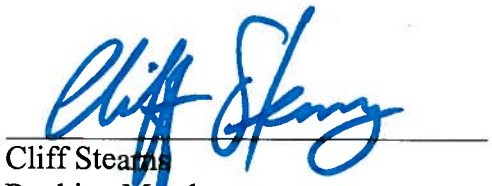
8. Please provide details on the consumer response to the recall since the recall announcement, including how many pieces of jewelry have been returned for a replacement, and the number and nature of consumer inquiries that your company has received.

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