

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade  
Hearing on “Oversight of the Consumer Product Safety Commission”  
May 19, 2015**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

As one of the smaller agencies that this committee oversees, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has a critically important mission: to protect consumers against unreasonable risks of injury from consumer products.

Over 15,000 different products fall within the commission’s jurisdiction—from toys and baby cribs to swimming pools and recreational off-highway vehicles. The commission’s work is critically important, but over the years there have been many issues raised with the commission’s implementation of its mission. When the commission overreaches, it can jeopardize safety and erode Congress’ trust. I have a responsibility to families in southwest Michigan to ensure the CPSC is focusing on its whole mission of safety, and not just on headlines or a few interest driven priorities.

Today, I am pleased to see Chairman Elliot Kaye, as well as Commissioners Ann Marie Buerkle and Joseph Mohorovic before the subcommittee for the first time in their new capacities. And Commissioner Adler, we welcome you back. I would also like to welcome the witnesses of the second panel here to talk about Mr. Pompeo’s bipartisan legislation, H.R. 999.

Oversight of an agency with such broad jurisdiction is critical to ensuring unsafe products are either stopped from coming into the stream of commerce or are taken off the shelves in a seamless and timely manner. I look forward to hearing from the commissioners about issues currently before them as well as their budget and regulatory priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. In particular, I would like an update on the progress being made on third party testing burdens that impact small businesses.

I would also like to hear more about how the commission prioritizes consumer education initiatives for known hazards in specialized circumstances, such as the newly announced “Best for Kids” program for window coverings, and how working with industry has provided opportunities for additional outreach. We have seen an increase in company-driven safety initiatives, ranging from this year’s Super Bowl ads to the self-directed recall of Fitbit activity bands last year. The potential for cooperation and partnerships should not be overlooked when consumer safety is at stake.

Everyone in this room shares the common goal of protecting consumers. Today’s hearing is a positive step and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on the off-road vehicles and other issues.

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