

15 April 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject:

TIC Council Americas Supports Calls for Increased CPSC Funding

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro,

Echoing the words of Acting Chairman Robert Adler in his letter dated 1 March 2021, the TIC Council Americas voices its support for the allocation of additional funding and resources to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). This funding is needed to support the CPSC's critical mission to "protect Americans from the unreasonable risks of consumer products."¹

The CPSC is charged with protecting the public from hazards associated with over 15,000 different types of consumer products. Its statutes give the Commission the authority to set mandatory safety standards and participate in the voluntary safety standards development process. Through their programs, the CPSC collects injury, death, and incident data and educates the public about consumer product safety. The CPSC plays a critical role in protecting consumers by removing defective products from shelves, ordering product recalls and other corrective actions when necessary. The CPSC also, through market and imports surveillance and monitoring, collects relevant data for trend analysis and communicates potential risks to consumers

But the work is not finished. Innovation in the technology sector has led to the emergence of new products and services that may affect the safety of consumers if not considered carefully. Such technology is specialized and will require unique solutions and the expertise of highly training and qualified personnel. Additionally, the sale of counterfeit goods through e-commerce platforms shipped through the mail in small packages requires the support of CPSC and its officials at the border to stem the tide of unsafe products.

TIC Council is the global trade federation representing the independent third-party Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) industry which brings together more than 90-member companies and organizations from around the world to speak with one voice. Its members provide services across a wide range of sectors: consumer products, medical devices, petroleum, mining and metals, food, and agriculture among others. Through provision of these services, TIC Council members assure that not only regulatory requirements are met, but also that reliability, economic value, and sustainability are enhanced.

¹ Letter dated 1 March 2021 from Acting Chairman Adler to The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, <https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/Reinventing%20CPSC%20-%20DeLauro.pdf?mw.RvWhqH7E3O2xY5mZgMPNG.kaFJwfw>

Without strong leadership from the CPSC, critical safety issues associated with consumer products may be overlooked, leading to consumer injuries. In a soon to be published study from the TIC Council, it's reported that *the size of the global IoT consumer market is expected grow from \$53bn in 2019 to an estimated \$188bn in 2027, suggesting a rapidly increasing uptake and use of connected devices by consumers.*²

TIC Council members remain ready to support and assist you and the CPSC in addressing this growing technology trend and looks forward to working with our fellow stakeholder to identify solutions to protect the safety of consumers.

US Congress, CPSC, and TIC Council share the concerns of emerging threats posed by cyber risk, supply chain risk, and technological disruption. Addressing these risks should continue to be a high priority. However, without sufficient funding, the CPSC will struggle to continue robust operations in the face of growing innovation. Additional funding will provide the necessary resources to work effectively with TIC members and other stakeholders and to protect the safety of consumers.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on this important issue. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Karin Athanas at +1 240 762 8069 / kathanas@tic-council.org.

Sincerely,



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² "Value of the Testing, Inspection and Certification Sector," Final Report, December 2020. Contact americas@tic-council.org to receive a copy on the date of publication.