

05 May 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, Transportation

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
House Committee on Energy and
Commerce

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Minority Member
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, Transportation

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Minority Member
House Committee on Energy and
Commerce

Subject:

**TIC Council Americas Supports
Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act**

The TIC Council Americas representing the Testing, Inspection, and Certification (“TIC”) industry supports the Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act (H.R. 1797/S. 1008) and urges your consideration and passage of this piece of legislation.

Batteries present a major challenge in the product safety space due to their range in size, construction, many uses, and their need to be recharged or replaced. And as lithium-ion batteries continue to proliferate in the marketplace, they are projected to increase 17-fold by 2030¹, action is needed to protect consumers.

In December of 2022, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued a letter to manufacturers, importers, and retailers of battery-powered micromobility products urging them to ensure their products are designed, manufactured, and certified to applicable voluntary safety standards.² In the CPSC letter, Commissioners identified that there were at least 208 micromobility-caused fires from 2021 through 2022, leading to at least 19 deaths.

While there are standards to address the safety of lithium-ion batteries and battery-powered products, they are not consistently adhered to nor are there mandatory requirements that they be met. Batteries must be designed and manufactured to prevent thermal runaway which can cause fires and explosions. In addition, manufactures must consider their product as an electrical system, ensuring compatible components and placement to avoid fire and electrical hazards. They must also consider heat exposure to other components that could cause a structural failure.

¹ “High Demand for Lithium-Ion Batteries,” data collected by Bloomberg, 2020, <https://www.statista.com/chart/23808/lithium-ion-battery-demand/>

² <https://www.cpsc.gov/Newsroom/News-Releases/2023/CPSC-Calls-on-Manufacturers-to-Comply-with-Safety-Standards-for-Battery-Powered-Products-to-Reduce-the-Risk-of-Injury-and-Death>

The TIC Council Americas is the U.S. branch of the TIC Council, the global trade federation representing the independent third-party Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) industry which brings together more than 100-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.

The TIC Council Americas and its members remain ready to support and assist in addressing this growing risk and we look forward to working with you and our fellow stakeholders to identify solutions 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,



Hanane Taidi
Director General
TIC Council



Karin Athanas
Executive Director
TIC Council Americas
kathanas@TIC-Council.org