



Chairman Ander Crenshaw

*Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
House Committee on Appropriations*

FY 2016 Budget Hearing - Consumer Product Safety Commission

March 19, 2015

Opening Statement As Prepared

The hearing will come to order.

I would like to welcome our witnesses, Chairman Kaye and Commissioner Buerkle. Chairman Kaye, you were only sworn in late last summer, however you have been with the Commission for some time now and we appreciate your institutional knowledge as Chairman. Commissioner Buerkle, it is great to see you back on Capitol Hill. Thank you both for being here today and testifying on the Consumer Product Safety Commission's fiscal year 2016 Budget Request.

The Commission has the daunting task of overseeing tens of thousands of consumer products. These products are used daily by all of us and it is important that the Commission lives up to its mission of protecting consumers from unsafe products while at the same time ensuring that American businesses and manufacturers are not adversely impacted by unnecessarily onerous rules and regulations.

The President's fiscal year 2016 budget request for the Consumer Product Safety Commission totals \$129 million, a \$6 million increase over 2015. The request includes \$5 million for a Nanotechnology Research Center. I'm very interested to learn more about this initiative. Additionally, the request includes \$17 million in funding for the import surveillance pilot program that has had some good success. However I am concerned with the Commission's request to collect a fee from importers in an effort to expand the program. So I look forward to your testimony here today justifying the fee, but as well as the outreach the Commission has done with those involved in global trade.

In the fiscal year 2015 Omnibus this Subcommittee included \$1 million for third party test burden reductions as we are concerned that the Commission is not dedicating the appropriate resources to this congressional-mandated priority. I look forward to hearing your testimony today on how the Commission is implementing this mandate and the work you have done to reduce significant third-party testing burdens.

Finally, I'm interested in learning more about how the Commission works with all of its stakeholders. The success of the U.S. regulatory system for protecting consumers and minimizing product hazards relies heavily on a cooperative relationship between the

Commission and all affected stakeholders. Chairman Kaye, you have said one of your top priorities when it comes to rulemaking will be addressing product safety hazards. So I am interested to hear your testimony on outreach to stakeholders so that the Commission can get the rules done right the first time instead of wasting the Commission's time and resources on litigation and lawsuits.

Once again, welcome to both of you, and I look forward to your testimony.

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