

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade  
Hearing on “Industry Perspectives on the  
Consumer Product Safety Commission”  
February 10, 2016**

As we enter a new budget season, I am pleased we are circling back to examine industry perspectives on the Consumer Product Safety Commission. I understand there were improvements in particular circumstances that the witnesses can tell us about, but I’m also interested in the witnesses’ views on which issues to prioritize when evaluating the Commission’s budget request.

The scope of the Commission’s jurisdiction in combination with its limited size and budget merits close attention to ensure that consumers’ trust in this agency is not eroded because of activist agendas.

I am interested in hearing from the witnesses today whose members engage on a regular basis with the Commission. There have been a number of recurring issues and we need to find a way to break the log jam and move forward.

The voluntary standards process has been a success in covering much more ground than mandatory rulemakings by the Commission could have accomplished. What’s more, the voluntary standards process proves how committed industry and the Commission are to making safe consumer products available in the U.S.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I would also like an update on the Commission’s activities to reduce third party testing burdens. There have been multiple bipartisan directives from Congress to help small businesses in this area and they have not been met with substantial action from the Commission.

The relationship between the Commission and industry is mutually beneficial and should be fostered to protect consumers. All relationships require work and it is worth exploring how to improve the relationship here because of its impact on consumer safety—particularly for the safety of families in southwest Michigan.