



President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20500

Ruth Ann Norton  
Executive Director

March 7, 2007

Dear President Bush:

I was extremely distressed to learn today of your intention to nominate Michael E. Baroody to be chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. As executive director of the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that every child has the right to grow up to achieve his or her full potential, I am nothing short of alarmed at this announcement.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is tasked with protecting the American public from potentially harmful products. I recognize this is a daunting charge, yet it is a critically important one to ensure the safety of our homes, our families, and especially our children.

The Coalition has a similar charge regarding the safety of homes, families, and children. It is clear that an individual with close ties to the National Association of Manufacturers cannot have the objectivity required to evaluate and pronounce what is safe or unsafe. As I hope you are aware, members of this Association are often the ones who merit the enforcement actions of the CPSC. A good example is the recent rash of toxic leaded toys and jewelry that have been shown to poison children and sadly, at least in one case, result in death.

I strongly suggest that you reconsider your choice of individuals to serve in this position and to fill all of the open positions on this Commission in a balanced fashion, appointing individuals experienced in consumer advocacy, health and children's issues. I invite you to speak with me further about this matter; my direct phone number is 410-534-6477.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Norton  
Executive Director

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NONPROFITS



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EXCELLENCE