

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA  
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
RICK BOUCHER, VIRGINIA  
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK  
FRANK PALLONE, Jr., NEW JERSEY  
BART GORDON, TENNESSEE  
BOBBY L. RUSH, ILLINOIS  
ANNA G. ESHOO, CALIFORNIA  
BART STUPAK, MICHIGAN  
ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK  
ALBERT R. WYNN, MARYLAND  
GENE GREEN, TEXAS  
DIANA DEGETTE, COLORADO  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
LOIS CAPPS, CALIFORNIA  
MIKE DOYLE, PENNSYLVANIA  
JANE HARMAN, CALIFORNIA  
TOM ALLEN, MAINE  
JAN SCHAKOWSKY, ILLINOIS  
HILDA L. SOLIS, CALIFORNIA  
CHARLES A. GONZALEZ, TEXAS  
JAY INSLEE, WASHINGTON  
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN  
MIKE ROSS, ARKANSAS  
DARLENE HOOLEY, OREGON  
ANTHONY D. WEINER, NEW YORK  
JIM MATHESON, UTAH  
G.K. BUTTERFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA  
CHARLIE MELANCON, LOUISIANA  
JOHN BARROW, GEORGIA  
BARON P. HILL, INDIANA

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Washington, DC 20515-6115**

JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN  
CHAIRMAN

JOE BARTON, TEXAS  
RANKING MEMBER  
RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS  
J. DENNIS HASTERT, ILLINOIS  
FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN  
CLIFF STEARNS, FLORIDA  
NATHAN DEAL, GEORGIA  
ED WHITFIELD, KENTUCKY  
BARBARA CUBIN, WYOMING  
JOHN SHIMKUS, ILLINOIS  
HEATHER WILSON, NEW MEXICO  
JOHN B. SHADEGG, ARIZONA  
CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING, MISSISSIPPI  
VITO FOSSELLA, NEW YORK  
STEVE BUYER, INDIANA  
GEORGE RADANOVICH, CALIFORNIA  
JOSEPH R. PITTS, PENNSYLVANIA  
MARY BONO, CALIFORNIA  
GREG WALDEN, OREGON  
LEE TERRY, NEBRASKA  
MIKE FERGUSON, NEW JERSEY  
MIKE ROGERS, MICHIGAN  
SUE MYRICK, NORTH CAROLINA  
JOHN SULLIVAN, OKLAHOMA  
TIM MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA  
MICHAEL C. BURGESS, TEXAS  
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE

August 22, 2007

DENNIS B. FITZGIBBONS, CHIEF OF STAFF  
GREGG A. ROTHSCHILD, CHIEF COUNSEL

Mr. David Bere  
Chief Executive Officer  
Dollar General Merchandising, Inc.  
100 Mission Ridge  
Goodlettsville, TN 37072

Dear Mr. Bere:

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection of the Committee on Energy and Commerce plans to hold a hearing in September on how to address the problem of children's products, imported to the United States from China, that contain lead exceeding lawful safety standards. We are concerned that such products have flooded stores across America and pose a health risk to our children. The Subcommittee will explore all avenues, including legislative remedies, to ensure that lead-tainted children's products do not cross our borders.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued a recall for some of your company's products on April 3, 2007. The products, metal key chains, contained lead that exceeded the lawful consumer product safety standard. As part of our inquiry and to help us draft any responsive legislation, we request that you respond to the following questions by September 6, 2007.

1. In addition to the approximately 396,000 key chains recalled by the CPSC in April, please provide detailed information on any other children's products imported by your company with lead paint or lead content that exceeds lawful safety standards.
2. Please provide information detailing the level of lead in the recalled key chains and any other products, if available.
3. Please provide the name and location of the company and facility in China that manufactured the metal key chains.
4. Are there provisions in your agreements with the Chinese or other manufacturers banning the use of lead and lead paint or limiting its use to lawful safety standards in the manufacture of the products your company imports?

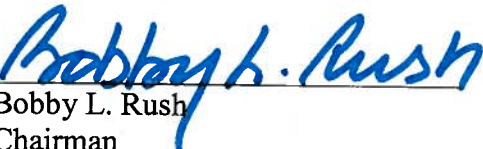
Mr. David Bere

Page 2

5. What steps does your company take to test and inspect imported key chains or other children's products before they are sent to retail outlets in the United States to ensure compliance with lead content safety standards?
6. How and when did your company discover the lead in the imported key chains that led to the recall announcement by the CPSC on April 3, 2007? When did you first contact the CPSC about the children's metal key chains?
7. Please provide details of the recall action undertaken by your company, including steps to inform retailers and consumers of the recall because of the lead hazard posed by the metal key chains. Did you provide information in a language other than English, especially Spanish? Did you take any specific steps to provide information to your retail partners located in underserved communities?
8. Please provide details on the consumer response to the recall since the recall announcement, including how many pieces of key chains have been returned for a refund or a replacement product, and the number and nature of consumer inquiries that your company has received.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to our request. We look forward to reviewing your responses. If you have questions or wish to discuss this matter, please contact Judith Bailey or Andrew Woelfling with the Committee majority staff at (202) 225-2927, or Brian McCullough or Shannon Weinberg with the Committee minority staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,

  
Bobby L. Rush  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade,  
and Consumer Protection

  
Cliff Stearns  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade,  
and Consumer Protection

cc: The Honorable John D. Dingell, Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce