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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

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

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March 5, 2007

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GREGG A. ROTHSCHILD, CHIEF COUNSEL

The Honorable Nancy A. Nord
Acting Chairman
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Chairman Nord:

We are writing to request your assistance in examining an issue of great importance to the health and welfare of the general public, particularly children. It has come to our attention that there may be serious problems with the stability of free-standing kitchen ranges as sold and installed in the United States. More specifically, we are aware that serious injuries and even deaths may have been caused by kitchen ranges tipping over onto small children.

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations are conducting an investigation into this matter. To assist us in this investigation, we request that the Commission provide the following information, along with all related records, no later than Wednesday, March 28, 2007:

1. Please provide all records the Commission may have regarding injuries and deaths associated with range tipovers from 1980 to the present. If there are any years for which there is no information available, please indicate.
2. Has the Commission received any reports from kitchen range manufacturers, retailers, or installers regarding kitchen range instability or tipovers from 1980 to the present? If so, please provide copies of all such reports.
3. Has the Commission received any complaints, petitions, letters, or other notifications regarding kitchen range stability or tipover problems? If so, please provide copies of all such complaints, petitions, letters, or other notifications and all related records. In addition, please indicate what action the Commission has taken on such complaints, petitions, letters, or other notifications.

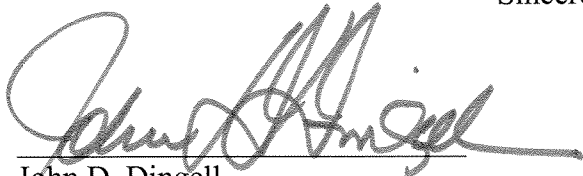
4. Has the Commission or its staff investigated, reviewed, or considered the issue of kitchen range stability or tipovers? If so, please provide all records related to such investigation, review, or consideration.
5. There appear to be at least two national safety standards that address the stability of free-standing kitchen ranges, Underwriters Laboratories (UL) 858, Household Electric Range Safety Standard (Section 33), and the ANSI Z21.1, Household Gas Range Safety Standard (Section 1.6). Has the Commission investigated the level of compliance with these or any other relevant standards?

If the Commission elects to assert a privilege or objection to the production of the foregoing records or information, please provide a privilege log fully identifying each document withheld and the legal basis for withholding that document from a Congressional committee of competent jurisdiction.

In responding to this request for documents, please be advised that the terms "records" and "relating to" are defined in the attachment to this letter.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important matter. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact John Arlington, Senior Investigative Counsel with the Committee on Energy and Commerce at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Chairman



Bart Stupak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

1. The term "records" is to be construed in the broadest sense and shall mean any written or graphic material, however produced or reproduced, of any kind or description, consisting of the original and any non-identical copy (whether different from the original because of notes made on or attached to such copy or otherwise) and drafts and both sides thereof, whether printed or recorded electronically or magnetically or stored in any type of data bank, including, but not limited to, the following: correspondence, memoranda, records, summaries of personal conversations or interviews, minutes or records of meetings or conferences, opinions or reports of consultants, projections, statistical statements, drafts, contracts, agreements, purchase orders, invoices, confirmations, telegraphs, telexes, agendas, books, notes, pamphlets, periodicals, reports, studies, evaluations, opinions, logs, diaries, desk calendars, appointment books, tape recordings, video recordings, e-mails, voice mails, computer tapes, or other computer stored matter, magnetic tapes, microfilm, microfiche, punch cards, all other records kept by electronic, photographic, or mechanical means, charts, photographs, notebooks, drawings, plans, inter-office communications, intra-office and intra-departmental communications, transcripts, checks and canceled checks, bank statements, ledgers, books, records or statements of accounts, and papers and things similar to any of the foregoing, however denominated.
2. The terms "relating," "relate," or "regarding" as to any given subject means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, identifies, deals with, or is in any manner whatsoever pertinent to that subject, including but not limited to records concerning the preparation of other records.