



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE NANCY A. NORD
ACTING CHAIRMAN
U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
PETITION CP04-1/HP 04-1
(MANDATORY STANDARDS FOR CANDLE PRODUCT SAFETY)
July 19, 2006**

Today I am voting to defer a decision on the petition submitted by the National Association of State Fire Marshals to promulgate mandatory product safety standards for candles and candle accessories. The Commission is required to respond to petitions in a timely fashion. In this case, the consensus standard process is well underway but is not yet completed. Therefore, it is premature for us to address the petitioner's request to develop a mandatory standard.

As the attendant staff briefing package illustrates, there has been and continues to be very significant progress made toward the development and implementation of several voluntary standards for candles and candle accessories. Such consensus standards are necessary as we continue to see an increase in both the use of candles by consumers and in the number of candle-related residential fires. With the close involvement and contributions by Commission staff, candle manufacturers and other stakeholders, these standards, which address fire safety, adequacy of warning labels and other consumer information for candles and candle accessories, should significantly reduce candle hazards.

The Commission's governing statutes prohibit us from proceeding with a rulemaking to develop a mandatory standard when consensus standards adequately address the particular product hazard at question. The staff has indicated that additional time is needed to complete the important work begun in the voluntary standards process. Therefore, in deferring the petition, I am also directing the staff to update the Commission regularly on the progress of these consensus standards.