

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 19, 2023

The Honorable Alexander Hoehn-Saric
Chairman
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Chair Hoehn-Saric,

We write to express our strong opposition to reporting that certain members of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) may seek an outright ban on gas ranges and stoves. We also request additional information about the CPSC's plans regarding this proposed action. On January 9, 2023, Bloomberg published an article outlining Commissioner Trumka's desire to see gas stoves banned.¹ Since that time, our offices have fielded numerous calls from concerned constituents worried that they may not be able to purchase a new gas stove for their home moving forward. We were pleased to see your statement from January 11, 2023, that you are "not looking to ban gas stoves"² at this time. However, given the uncertainties that Commissioner Trumka's comments have created, it is our hope that by getting additional information, we can better understand how the CPSC plans to move forward on this issue.

According to the Energy Information Administration, over one-third of U.S. households use gas stoves.³ Consumers have chosen their home appliances based on numerous factors, including upfront price, operating costs, maintenance costs, and convenience. Gas stoves tend to result in lower utility bills than their electric counterparts.⁴ Gas stoves are also generally more durable, with less parts being susceptible to breakages or other defects. A ban on these stoves would therefore likely result in higher utility bills, disproportionately affecting low-income populations. Additionally, a 2020 report from the National Fire Protection Association found that "households that used electric ranges showed a higher risk of cooking fires and associated losses than those using gas ranges."⁵

Like the CPSC, our desire is to ensure that consumer products are as safe as possible. Home appliances are some of the most expensive purchases that our constituents make each year, and those products must be designed first and foremost with safety in mind. However, we remain concerned about regulatory overreach from federal agencies. By denying consumers choice, the CPSC deciding to ban gas stoves would distort the marketplace and ultimately raise costs for consumers. Rather than pursuing this outright ban, we believe it would be most appropriate for the CPSC to gather additional information on the scope of the problem and, if appropriate, work with manufacturers to ensure that these stoves are as safe as possible.

¹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-01-09/us-safety-agency-to-consider-ban-on-gas-stoves-amid-health-fears>

² <https://www.cpsc.gov/About-CPSC/Chairman/Alexander-Hoehn-Saric/Statement/Statement-of-Chair-Alexander-Hoehn-Saric-Regarding-Gas-Stoves>


³ <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=53439>

⁴ <https://www.quickenloans.com/learn/is-gas-or-electric-cheaper>

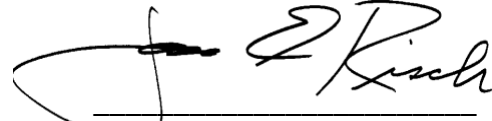
⁵ <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/News-and-Research/Fire-statistics-and-reports/US-Fire-Problem/Fire-causes/oscooking.pdf>

We appreciate the work that CPSC does on behalf of American consumers. We respectfully request a response to this letter by January 27, 2023, that outlines how the CPSC plans to move forward in regards to potential regulations of gas stoves.

Sincerely,



Cynthia M. Lummis
U.S. Senator



Jim Risch
U.S. Senator



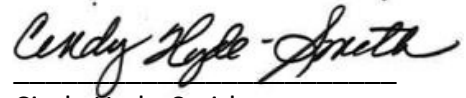
Mike Crapo
U.S. Senator



Deb Fischer
U.S. Senator



John Boozman
U.S. Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
U.S. Senator



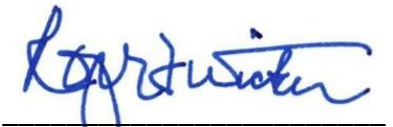
Marsha Blackburn
U.S. Senator



Tim Scott
U.S. Senator



Joni Ernst
U.S. Senator



Roger Wicker
U.S. Senator

cc. Commissioner Mary Boyle
cc. Commissioner Peter Feldman
cc. Commissioner Richard Trumka