

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business
2561 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6515

November 9, 2023

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

Dear Chairman Hoehn-Saric:

The House Committee on Small Business writes to inquire about the recent proposed rule that would create new product safety standards for residential furnaces and boilers.¹ These new standards would require the small businesses that manufacture residential furnaces and boilers to abandon or redesign many of their product lines—an endeavor which could cost each small business up to \$13.8 million.² It appears that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) may not have properly considered small entities during this rulemaking process.

It is important for agencies to examine small business interests—which make up 99.9 percent of all businesses in the United States—when passing any new rule. America’s small businesses deserve to have their voices heard and considered. We therefore request the following information as soon as possible but no later than November 24, 2023:

1. What is the estimated conversion cost to revenue rate for each of the five small businesses that the CPSC identified as being impacted by the updated standards?
 - a. Does the CPSC believe the estimated \$13.8 million conversion cost per small entity is a reasonable cost for entities to absorb based on each business's annual revenue?³
2. What additional costs would a small business, such as a furnace repair service, incur for staff training or new tools related to new equipment that complies with the updated standards?
3. Does the CPSC anticipate the projected increase in consumer costs for residential furnaces and boilers will prevent homeowners from purchasing equipment that complies

¹ Safety Standard for Residential Gas Furnaces and Boilers, 88 F.R. 73272, 73286 (to be codified at 16 C.F.R. § 1408).

² *Id.* at 73285-6.

³ *Id.* at 73286.

with these updated standards, thus negatively impacting the five identified small businesses?⁴

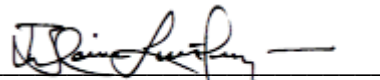
4. What is the CPSC doing to notify the five small businesses identified as being impacted by the proposed standards so that they can submit comments regarding the regulation?

To schedule the delivery of your response or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact the Committee on Small Business Majority Staff at (202) 225-5821. The Committee on Small Business has broad authority to investigate “problems of all types of small business” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

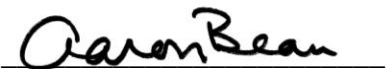
In God We Trust,



Roger Williams
Chairman
Committee on Small Business



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Vice Chairman
Committee on Small Business



Aaron Bean
Member
Committee on Small Business

cc: The Honorable Nydia M. Velasquez, Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business

⁴ *Id.* at 73285.