

SJR

18

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Co-chair, Joint Armed Services
Committee

•
Senate Resources Committee

•
Senate Judiciary Committee

•
Senate Transportation Committee



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SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

SJR 18: Toxic Toys Sponsor Statement

Numerous recalls of children's toys and other products have filled the headlines in recent years. These recalls have also illuminated a weakness in consumer protection and child safety: the regulatory agency, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) does not analyze toys or children's products for the presence of chemicals linked to harmful health and developmental impacts, like lead. SJR 18 requests the federal government to test of children's toys for these dangerous chemicals.

The CPSC conducts tests to determine if a toy presents a choking, aspiration or ingestion hazard but relies on toy and child product manufacturers to self-regulate the materials used (and thus toxicity levels) in their products.

Recalls are mostly voluntary and occur when a company alerts the agency of a problem. This past summer, millions of toys were recalled because of dangerous levels of lead paint. The only federal law applies only to lead in paint—it does not regulate it in other materials, making lead in vinyl (PVC) products (like teething rings and baby bibs) legal.

SJR 18 requests that the materials used in toys and other children's products be tested for toxicity and to make the results publicly available to protect children, the public, and workers who handle the products. Please join us in protecting our children's health.

Potential Witnesses/Sites

Kristin Ryan, Department of Environmental Conservation – Juneau

Sue Kelly, Alaska Conservation Alliance – Juneau

Pam Miller, Alaska Community Action on Toxics—Anchorage



Alaska Conservation Alliance

Uniting for Alaska's Future

March 14, 2008

The Honorable Senator Wielechowski
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SJR 18 – Child Product Safety

Dear Senator Wielechowski,

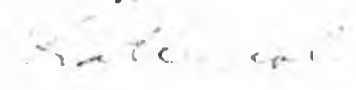
On behalf of the Alaska Conservation Alliance (ACA), a consortium of 40 Alaska-based conservation groups, I would like to express our support for SJR 18, a resolution that would encourage the President of the United States and the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) to better test toys and products intended for use by children and make that information public.

Recent headlines have brought attention to the problem of lead and other chemicals present in common toys. On Wednesday of this week the CPSC issued a recall of X Force Commander Toy Airplanes and Super Famous Toy Cars and Motorcycles for containing excessive levels of lead in paint. Last year over half of the toy recalls were due to lead and chemical contamination. Children are particularly vulnerable to exposure to lead and other chemicals because their brain, central nervous system and other vital organs are still forming. For example, even low level exposure to lead can result in lower IQ, learning disabilities, behavioral problems, slowed growth and hearing problems.

Additionally, scientific research continues to point to increased contaminant levels in Alaska due to ocean currents and deposition patterns. Subsequently, Alaskan children are not only exposed to chemicals in their toys and products but also chemicals in their environmental surroundings.

This resolution urges greater research into the toys we give our children and dissemination of that information. This will allow Alaskan parents to make better-informed decisions about which products to give their children. SJR 18 is an important first step towards raising awareness about the chemicals present in our children's toys and giving all parents the information needed to make decisions about the health and safety of their children. ACA strongly encourages the Alaska Legislature to pass SJR 18.

Sincerely,


Kate Troll
Executive Director

CC: Senator Davis Senator Thomas Senator Cowdery
 Senator Elton Senator Dyson

**HTS - 9503: TOYS, INCLUDING RIDING TOYS OTHER THAN BICYCLES;
DOLLS, PUZZLES; REDUCED SCALE MODELS; PARTS AND
ACCESSORIES THEREOF
U.S. Imports For Consumption**

Country	2005	2006	2007	Percent Change 2006 - 2007
	<i>In 1,000 Dollars</i>			
China	7,298,871	7,328,765	9,239,273	26.1%
Mexico	126,436	113,137	263,215	132.7%
Denmark	113,690	129,009	162,470	25.9%
Taiwan	125,986	124,893	159,828	28.0%
Hong Kong	100,459	115,650	99,729	-13.8%
Indonesia	24,648	20,224	91,681	353.3%
Canada	81,640	66,456	66,812	0.5%
Thailand	68,692	86,744	64,853	-25.2%
Germany	48,107	45,758	53,575	17.1%
Malaysia	48,892	47,539	49,915	5.0%
Japan	43,162	39,089	43,745	11.9%
Vietnam	23,560	25,564	37,127	45.2%
Italy	24,448	19,116	35,886	87.7%
Czech Republic	14,825	16,628	20,125	21.0%
Korea	25,504	18,335	18,395	0.3%
Subtotal :	8,168,921	8,196,908	10,406,629	27.0%
All Other:	100,982	99,787	94,988	-4.8%
Total	8,269,902	8,296,695	10,501,617	26.6%

Sources: Data on this site have been compiled from tariff and trade data from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. International Trade Commission.

2007 Toy Recalls		
AAFES	Lead Paint	"Soldier Bear"
Dollar Tree Stores	Lead Paint	Children's Toys
Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores	Lead Paint	Children's Water Globes
Far East Brokers	Lead Paint	Fishing Games Sold at Grocery Stores
Bell Racing	Lead Paint	Collectible Mini Racing Helmets
Marvel Toys	Risk of Lead Exposure	Curious George Plush Dolls
Schylling Associates	Lead Paint	Collectable Toy Robot
Schylling Associates	Lead Paint	Dizzy Ducks Music Box
Schylling Associates	Lead Paint	Spinning Top
Schylling Associates	Lead Paint	Duck Family Collectable Toy
Dollar General	Lead Paint	Toy Cars
International Sourcing Ltd.	Lead Paint	Toy Dragster and Funny Car
Henry Gordy International	Lead Paint	Toy Figures
Toys "R" Us	Lead Paint	Elite Operations Toys
SimplyFun	Risk of Lead Exposure	Rabbit Board Games
Jo-Ann Stores	Lead Paint	Children's Toy Garden Tools
Fisher Price	Lead Paint	Go Diego Go Boat Toys
J.C. Penney	Lead Paint	Disney™ Winnie-the-Pooh Play Sets
Kipp Brothers	Excessive Lead	Bendable Dinosaur Toys
Toys "R" Us	Lead Paint	Children's Decorating Sets
Eveready Battery Co.	Lead Paint	Toy Flashlights
Kids II	Lead Paint	Baby Einstein Color Blocks
KB Toys	Lead Paint	Wooden Toys
Guidecraft Inc.	Lead Paint	Children's Puppet Theaters
Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores	Lead Paint	Children's Toy Rakes
RC2	Lead Paint	Knights of the Sword Toys
Target	Lead Paint	Children's Toy Gardening Tools and Chairs
RC2 Corp.	Lead Paint	Additional Thomas & Friends™ Wooden Railway Toys
Fisher-Price	Lead Paint	Bongo Band Toys
Fisher-Price	Lead Paint	Geo Trax Locomotive Toys
Mattel	Lead Paint	Barbie® Accessory Toys
Schylling Associates	Lead Paint	Thomas and Friends, Curious George and Other Spinning Tops and Tin Pails
Hampton Direct	Lead Exposure Risk	Magnetic Toy Train
Mattel	Violation of Lead Safety	"Sarge" Die Cast Toy Cars
Fisher-Price	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Licensed Character Toys
AAFES	Lead Poisoning Hazard	"Soldier Bear" Toy Sets
RC2 Corp.	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Various Thomas & Friends™ Wooden Railway Toys
Gemmy Industries Corp.	Chemical Hazard	Flashing Eyeball Toys
Tire Boyds Collection Ltd.	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Toy Drums
AAFES	Lead Poisoning Hazard	"Soldier Bear" Toy Sets
Target	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Anima Bamboo Collection Games
Regent Products Corp.	Lead Hazard	Stuffed Ball Toys
Toys "R" Us	Lead and Laceration Hazards	"Elite Operations" Toy Sets

	2007 Child Product Recalls	
Discount School Supply	Lead Paint	Measuring Chart
Codee International Corp.	Risk of Lead Exposure	Children's Jewelry
United Scientific	Lead Paint	Horseshoe Magnets
RC2	Lead Paint	Potty Training Seats
Topsy Pillows	Lead Exposure	Slipcovers
Raymond Geddes & Co.	Lead Paint	Children's Pencil Pouches
Buy-Rite	Risk of Lead Exposure	Children's Metal Jewelry
Cherrydale Fundraising	Risk of Lead Exposure	Bracelets
Colossal Jewelry & Accessories	Risk of Lead Exposure	Children's Metal Jewelry
La Femme NY Inc.	Risk of Lead Exposure	Earring Sets
Pure Allure sold at Michael's	Children	Metal Jewelry
Discount School Supply	Lead Paint	Paint Brushes
Family Dollar Stores	Children	Metal Jewelry
FGX International	Lead Paint	Children's Sunglasses
Hobby Lobby Stores	Lead Paint	Halloween-Themed Baskets
Dollar General	Lead Paint	Children's Sunglasses
Northern Tool & Equipment	Lead Paint	"Big Red" Wagons
	Lead Paint	Pearl-like Bead Attachment Sold with Girl's Gift Sets
Amscan Inc.	Lead Paint	Halloween "Ugly Teeth"
Family Dollar Stores	Lead Paint	Halloween Pails
Dollar Tree Stores Inc.	Risk of Lead Exposure	Children's Jewelry
WeC ow International	Risk of Lead Exposure	Children's Metal Jewelry
Albert's	Lead Paint	Halloween Skull Pails
Antioch Publishing	Lead Paint	Additional Bookmarks
Guidecraft Inc.	Lead Paint	Children's Puppet Theaters
J.C. Penney	Lead Paint	Deluxe Art Sets
Store®	Lead Paint	Travel Art Sets
Flaghouse Inc.	Lead Paint	Kidnastics Balance Beams
Kahoot Products Inc.	Lead Paint	Cub Scouts Totem Badges
Antioch Publishing	Lead Paint	Bookmarks and Journals
Dollar General	Risk of Lead Exposure	Key Chains
Dollar General	Lead Paint	Tumblers
TOBY N.Y.C.	Risk of Lead Exposure	Children's Metal Jewelry
Rhode Island Novelty	Risk of Lead Exposure	Metal Necklaces
Toys "R" Us	Lead Paint	Wooden Coloring Cases
Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores	Violation of Lead in Paint Ban	Children's Watering Cans
Martin Designs Inc.	Lead Paint	Character Address Books and Journals
Buy-Rite	Risk of Lead Exposure	Children's Charm Bracelets
TOBY N.Y.C.	Risk of Lead Exposure	Children's Metal Jewelry
Fisher-Price	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Licensed Character Toys
Wal-Mart Stores / Uncas Manufacturing Co.	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Earrings
Future Industries	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Metal Jewelry
GeoCentral	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Necklaces

Limited Too and Justice Stores	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Metal Jewelry
Troy-Bilt	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Gardening Gloves
Cardinal Distributing	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Rings
Spandrel Sales and Marketing	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Metal Jewelry
Cardinal Distributing	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Rings
Oriental Trading Company Inc.	Lead Hazard	Children's Necklaces
Cardinal Distributing Co.	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Charm Bracelets
Dollar General	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Various Metal Key Chains
A&A Global Industries	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Bracelets
Rhode Island Novelty	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Mood Necklaces
Claire's Stores	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Necklaces
Accessories Palace	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Necklaces
H & M Recalls	Choking, Poisoning Hazards	Boy's Jackets
Discount School Supply	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Two-Sided Easels
Big Lots! Stores / Lari Jewelry Company	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Rings
Kmart / Crimzon Rose	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Jewelry
Samara Brothers	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Boys' Jackets
DM Merchandising	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Bracelets
Shalom International	Lead Poisoning Hazard	Children's Rings
U.S. Toy Co.	Lead Poisoning	Children's Butterfly Necklaces
Samara Brothers	Snaps Contain Lead	Sets