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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Ann Marie Buerkle
Acting Chairman
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Acting Chairman Buerkle:

We write today to request an update on your specific efforts to ensure that consumers are able to purchase new, safer portable generators in advance of the coming summer hurricane and storm season.

On April 13, 2018, three of your fellow commissioners sent letters to the major national retailers of portable generators asking them to voluntarily consider stocking generator units by this summer that adhere to new voluntary safety standards that require reduced carbon monoxide (CO) emissions and/or CO detection and shutoff technology. In light of the 12 carbon monoxide fatalities in Florida after Hurricane Irma linked to portable generators, as well as recent portable generator linked deaths in the Northeast United States, the need for action in this area is urgent. Unfortunately, it is our understanding that you declined to sign these letters.

Accordingly, we would like to know your justification for refusing to sign these letters as well as your plan for ensuring that consumers have access to safer models of portable generators in the coming months.

We request a response as soon as possible, and no later than May 4, 2018. Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical safety issue.

Sincerely,

BILL NELSON
Ranking Member

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Consumer
Protection, Product Safety,
Insurance, and Data Security

cc: The Honorable John Thune, Chairman
The Honorable Elliot F. Kaye, Commissioner, CPSC
The Honorable Robert S. Adler, Commissioner, CPSC
The Honorable Marietta S. Robinson, Commissioner, CPSC