

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2025

The Honorable Peter A. Feldman
Acting Chairman
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Acting Chairman Feldman:

We write to urge the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (the “Commission”) to swiftly issue a notice of proposed rulemaking (“NPRM”) moving the proposed rule *to establish a new safety standard for lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility products and electrical systems of micromobility products containing such batteries*, which has received bipartisan support and would save countless lives.

As you know, last year, we led the effort in Congress to reach a bipartisan compromise that would have authorized the Commission to enact safety standards based upon generally accepted voluntary standards for the use of lithium-ion batteries in micromobility products. We will continue fighting to pass the Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act but as the legislation works its way through Congress, the Commission must do all it can to save lives and protect Americans from the poorly-made batteries from China that have caused harm. To that end, we were pleased to see CPSC formulate proposed safety standards that would address the risk of death and injury associated with lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility product electrical systems. A decisional meeting to issue a NPRM was scheduled for January 29, 2025, but has been indefinitely postponed. Given the public safety benefits that would arise from issuance and finalization of the NPRM, we strongly urge the Commission to move forward with advancing it as soon as possible. Any delay would not only impact consumers across the country, it would also put the safety and lives of our country’s finest heroes, our law enforcement and first responders, in danger.

Further, many of these cheap and defective lithium-ion batteries are manufactured in China without being subject to effective safety standards, ultimately causing fires or other safety hazards. In New York City alone, the New York City Fire Department reports rechargeable lithium-ion batteries have caused more than 1,000 fires since 2019, resulting in 523 injuries, 34 deaths & damage to over 650 structures. In 2024, there were 279 e-bike and e-mobility device battery fires in NYC, a dramatic increase from the 30 that occurred in 2019. While the Administration and the Commission consider policy options to address economic relations with China, it is critical that the Commission advance this rulemaking as a means of protecting innocent Americans from the dangers of cheap and defective imported lithium-ion batteries.

As the Commission continues its work, we stand ready to work together to address this serious public safety concern. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Mary T. Boyle, Commissioner
The Honorable Alexander Hoehn-Saric, Commissioner
The Honorable Richard Trumka, Commissioner
The Honorable Douglas Dziak, Commissioner