

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 20, 2022

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

The Honorable Michael S. Regan  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Hoehn-Saric and Administrator Regan:

As leaders of the Subcommittees on Consumer Protection and Commerce and Environment and Climate Change, we are writing concerning your agencies' efforts to curb harmful emissions from gas stoves and are requesting a briefing on these efforts.

Research indicates that gas stoves can pose health and safety risks to consumers. When used without proper ventilation, gas stoves can emit dangerous levels of harmful pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).<sup>1</sup> These appliances can also raise indoor concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> to levels considered dangerous even outdoors.<sup>2</sup>

Prolonged exposure to these pollutants contributes to various adverse health conditions. Short term exposure to NO<sub>2</sub> can exacerbate existing cases of asthma, while long term exposure contributes to the onset of new cases.<sup>3</sup> PM<sub>2.5</sub> similarly worsens respiratory conditions, including asthma and bronchitis, and can even lead to premature death.<sup>4</sup> Recent research also shows that in addition to exposing consumers to NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, appliances such as gas stoves emit other toxic air pollutants, including well-known carcinogens like benzene, *even when turned off*.<sup>5</sup> Unfortunately, these health risks are disproportionately borne by underserved members of our communities, including Black and Latinx families, children, and low-income households.<sup>6</sup>

It's time for the Federal government to address these risks. Through the Consumer Product Safety Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is empowered to regulate products that pose an unreasonable risk of injury to consumers. And the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the scientific and subject matter expertise to assess the health effects of gas stove emissions and potential measures to mitigate these risks. By combining the EPA's technical expertise and the CPSC's history of protecting consumers from product hazards, we believe your agencies can address harmful gas stove emissions head on.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://pirg.org/edfund/resources/gas-stoves-a-hidden-health-risk-in-plain-sight/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://psr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/health-effects-from-gas-stove-pollution.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/no2-pollution/basic-information-about-no2#Effects>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www3.epa.gov/region1/airquality/pm-human-health.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35081712/> and <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.1c08298>

<sup>6</sup> <https://psr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/health-effects-from-gas-stove-pollution.pdf>

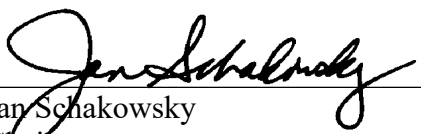
We are encouraged that you are already working together on this issue through a joint taskforce aimed at developing a voluntary standard to have a standardized and repeatable way to test gas stove emissions. We also recognize that to continue this work your agencies need additional funding and support. The CPSC has been chronically underfunded, despite the important consumer protection work the agency does. We will continue to work in a bipartisan way to increase funding for the agency to support its critical mission.

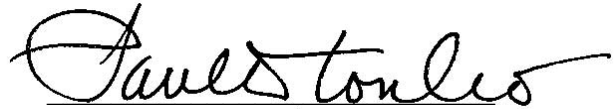
In addition to the joint taskforce, on October 26, 2022, the CPSC took a critical step in addressing the risks associated with gas stoves by directing staff to prepare a Request for Information (RFI) “to seek public input on hazards associated with gas stoves and proposed solutions to those hazards” by March 1, 2023, as part of the Commission’s Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Plan. This decision will certainly accelerate CPSC action that we believe is both necessary and urgent.

We urge the CPSC to work expeditiously in developing, issuing, and ultimately acting in response to the RFI. Throughout this process, we strongly encourage the Commission to leverage the technical proficiency and experience the EPA has in studying the health effects of indoor air pollution.

We look forward to hearing from both of your agencies on the work you are doing to address the health and safety risks posed by gas stoves. To that end, we request a briefing to update the Committee on your progress. Thank you for your consideration and prompt response.

Sincerely,

  
Jan Schakowsky  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection  
and Commerce

  
Paul Tonko  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Environment and  
Climate Change