

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 11, 2023

Richard L. Trumka Jr.
Commissioner
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Commissioner Trumka,

Thank you for your service to the country and its consumers. In an interview with Bloomberg, you shared that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) plans to issue a proposal to regulate natural gas stoves as soon as this year and that “[a]ny option is on the table,” including a product ban.¹ I am concerned about both the impact of a potential ban and the basis on which it is being considered.

Gas stoves have become essential to feed American families. In my home state of Ohio, as many as two-in-five households use gas for cooking.² Many local restaurants rely on gas stoves for the same reasons that home cooks do: they find them easier to cook with and cheaper to operate.³ These Ohioans have suffered rising energy costs long enough and should not be forced to choose electric alternatives that tend to be more expensive to operate.⁴

But now they might have to because of a newfound “hidden hazard” that rests on limited research. For instance, your Bloomberg interview cited a recently published study that attributed more than 12% of childhood asthma cases to gas stove usage. But the authors conducted no tests of appliance-usage or exposure, failed to consider adequately other factors, and even found, in a review of 357 peer-reviewed studies, that “none reported new associations between gas stove use and childhood asthma specifically in North America or Europe.”⁵ Another prominent study,

¹ Bloomberg, [“US Safety Agency to Consider Ban on Gas Stoves Amid Health Fears.”](#) January 9, 2023, Accessed January 10, 2023.

² U.S. Energy Information Administration, [“In 2020, most U.S. households prepared at least one hot meal a day at home.”](#) August 14, 2022, Accessed January 20, 2023.

³ Florida Public Utilities Company, [“New Survey Shows That 98% Of Chefs Prefer Cooking With Gas.”](#) November 11, 2011, Accessed January 10, 2023.

⁴ Nerdwallet, [“Gas vs. Electric Range: How to Choose.”](#) December 2, 2020, Accessed January 9, 2023.

⁵ Gruenwald et al., [“Population Attributable Fraction of Gas Stoves and Childhood Asthma in the United States.”](#) *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 2023 20(1), 75.

featured last year by the *New York Times*⁶, was based on an analysis of just 53 homes in California.⁷ It is not the hazard that is “hidden,” but your evidence for it.

The lack of compelling evidence betrays a different motive. Banning popular and heretofore harmless gas-powered appliances is just the latest effort to achieve progressive decarbonization goals by any means necessary, in this case under the guise of consumer protection: If consumers will not give up gas-powered appliances freely, then use the consumer protection authorities of the federal government to choke off demand for them. I am not fooled by this administration’s campaign against natural gas, nor are everyday Ohioans.

Your chairman, Alexander Hoehn-Saric, has walked back your brazen remarks and pledged that the CPSC is “not looking to ban gas stoves.”⁸ I wish I could believe his promises. But given the callous indifference of your remarks to the needs of everyday Ohioans and this administration’s reckless campaign against American energy, I cannot.

I urge you to reevaluate the evidence of the alleged harms posed by gas-powered appliances, renounce any potential ban, and foreclose consideration of regulations that would restrict access to natural gas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JD Vance', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JD Vance
United States Senator

⁶ New York Times, [“Did I Turn Off the Stove? Yes, but Maybe Not the Gas.”](#) January 27, 2022, Accessed January 10, 2023.

⁷ Lebel et al., [“Methane and NOx Emissions from Natural Gas Stoves, Cooktops, and Ovens in Residential Homes.”](#) *Environmental Science and Technology* 2022, 56, 4.

⁸ Breanne Deppisch [@breanne_dep], “NEW: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission chairman issues a statement on gas stove regulations/lack thereof, after Trumka's comments earlier this week ignited political frenzy.” January 11, 2023.