

Senator Jean Carnahan

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

Confirmation Hearing of Mary Sheila Gall

July 25, 2001

Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is the federal agency principally responsible for protecting the public against the unreasonable risk of injuries and death associated with consumer products.

I expect the Chair of this agency to be a vigorous advocate for consumers willing to support reasonable health and safety regulations.

Mr. Chairman, I approach today's hearing, as I approach all Presidential nominations, with a predisposition towards supporting the President's choice. However a number of serious questions have been raised about Commissioner Gall's approach to the CPSC that have caused me to have some misgivings.

Of course the President is entitled to deference on his nominations.

But if it is determined that a nominee is not committed to the goals Congress has established for the agency to which he or she has been nominated, it is appropriate for the Senate to withhold its advice and consent. This is *particularly* true if the nominee is to serve as the agency's chair.

As a member of the Senate, charged with providing advice and consent, I am seeking to determine whether my concerns about Ms. Gall's approach to the CPSC rise to such a level to warrant rejection of her nomination.

I look forward to hearing Ms. Gall's testimony today. I will pay particular attention to her responses to my questions and the questions of my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.