



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

April 13, 2018

Mr. John Venhuizen
President and Chief Executive Officer
Ace Hardware Corporation
2200 Kensington Court
Oak Brook, IL 60523

Dear Mr. Venhuizen,

We wrote to you in October of last year to seek your assistance in protecting American consumers from the unreasonable risk of injury and death associated with portable generators. Since then, there have been important developments in the voluntary standards for portable generators that have already resulted in the introduction of safer portable generators. As hurricane season approaches, we urge you to make safety a top priority when deciding on the range of portable generators you plan to offer your customers.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning from portable generators kills at least 73 Americans a year, and causes injuries, some catastrophic, in at least 2,800 people a year.¹ And we know these numbers are low, particularly with respect to injuries, since our data come from Emergency Departments and most who suffer CO injuries treat in hyperbaric chambers. These numbers are staggering, and the deaths and injuries are avoidable. You, as a major retailer of portable generators, have the opportunity to help reduce these deaths and injuries by stocking safer portable generators and encouraging your suppliers to bring to market a wider selection of safer portable generators.

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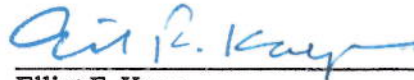
Recently, UL passed a new voluntary standard for portable generators: UL 2201. This standard requires lower CO emissions and the use of CO detection and shutoff technology to provide additional safety. Portable generators can now be certified to this standard. Additionally, the Portable Generator Manufacturers Association has completed its work on its revised voluntary standard: ANSI/PGMA G300, which will become effective March 21, 2020. ANSI/PGMA G300 does not require lower CO emissions, but requires the use of CO detection and shutoff technology. Any generator meeting one of these standards will include safety devices not required under any previous standard.

As you make your upcoming purchasing decisions for portable generator offerings, we urge you to consider products that meet one or more of the new standards. By doing so, you will save lives by offering safer products, and you will support the industry's ongoing investments in these safety technologies. Together, we can all help reduce these preventable deaths and injuries.


Sincerely,



Robert S. Adler
Robert S. Adler
Commissioner



Elliot F. Kaye
Elliot F. Kaye
Commissioner



Marietta S. Robinson
Marietta S. Robinson
Commissioner

cc: Heather Buck, Manager of Compliance and Regulations



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April 13, 2018

Mr. W. Craig Jelinek
President, CEO and Director
Costco Wholesale Corporation
999 Lake Drive
Issaquah, WA 98027

Dear Mr. Jelinek,

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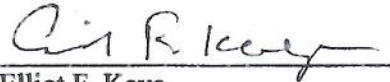
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Sincerely,



Robert S. Adler
Commissioner



Elliot F. Kaye
Commissioner



Marietta S. Robinson
Commissioner

cc: Derek Snead, Esq.



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April 13, 2018

Mr. Craig A. Menear
Chairman, CEO and President
The Home Depot
2455 Paces Ferry Road
Atlanta, GA 30339

Dear Mr. Menear,

We wrote to you in October of last year to seek your assistance in protecting American consumers from the unreasonable risk of injury and death associated with portable generators. Since then, there have been important developments in the voluntary standards for portable generators that have already resulted in the introduction of safer portable generators. As hurricane season approaches, we urge you to make safety a top priority when deciding on the range of portable generators you plan to offer your customers.

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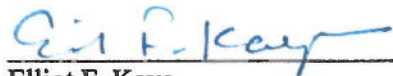
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Sincerely,



Robert S. Adler
Commissioner



Elliot F. Kaye
Commissioner



Marietta S. Robinson
Commissioner

cc: Joanna Coates, Senior Manager of Product Safety



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4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

April 13, 2018

**Mr. Robert Niblock
Chairman, CEO and President
Lowe's
1000 Lowe's Boulevard
 Mooresville, NC 28117**

Dear Mr. Niblock,

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Robert S. Adler
Commissioner



Elliot F. Kaye
Commissioner



Marietta S. Robinson
Commissioner

cc: Jonathan Wolfson, Esq.



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April 13, 2018

Mr. John Menard, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Menard's
5101 Menard Drive
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Dear Mr. Menard,

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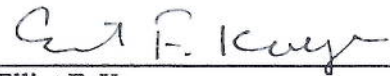
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Robert S. Adler
Commissioner



Elliot F. Kaye
Commissioner



Marietta S. Robinson
Commissioner

cc: Todd Lemanski, Esquire



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BETHESDA, MD 20814

April 13, 2018

Mr. Edward S. Lampert
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Sears Holdings
3333 Beverly Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60179

Dear Mr. Lampert,

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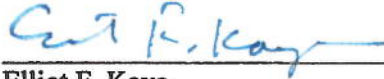
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Robert S. Adler
Commissioner



Elliot F. Kaye
Commissioner



Marietta S. Robinson
Commissioner

cc: Lori Miller



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4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

April 13, 2018

Mr. C. Douglas McMillon
President and Chief Executive Officer
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
702 S. W. 8th Street
Bentonville, AR 72716

Dear Mr. McMillon,

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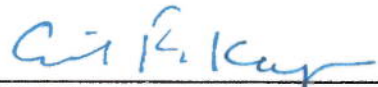
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cc: Kimberly Horne, Product Safety and Compliance Director