



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS®

HAROLD A. SCHAITBERGER
General President

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May 12, 2020

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Cantwell,

On behalf of the more than 320,000 professional fire fighters and emergency medical personnel of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), I am writing to express our opposition to the nomination of Nancy Beck to Chair the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). We believe her record promoting the interests of the chemical industry at the expense of workers' health and safety makes her ill-suited for this position.

As a lobbyist and former executive for the chemical industry, Ms. Beck opposed efforts to ban toxic flame retardants from consumer products despite research demonstrating their negative health impacts on vulnerable populations and workers, including fire fighters. Additionally, in her current role as Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator in the EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Ms. Beck has actively weakened safety protections and undermined rules on emerging hazards such as PFAS. She also demonstrated her disinterest in protecting workers through her work to exclude exposure to legacy asbestos in the chemical's risk evaluation under TSCA.

Ms. Beck's professional record, while working for the chemical industry, the EPA and in the White House, illustrates a consistent disregard for the risks that toxic chemicals pose to workers' health. Fire fighters are particularly concerned with the potential cancer risk posed by toxic flame retardants, and have worked in the states to ban their use. As CPSC Chair, Ms. Beck would be poised to undermine the significant progress states have made to ban flame retardants and could reverse the Commission's planned rulemaking on the use of organohalogen flame retardants in various consumer products.

The IAFF believes if Ms. Beck is appointed as chair to the CPSC Commission she will continue to advance the agenda of the chemical industry and reverse health and safety protections for fire fighters and consumers across the country. We urge you to reject her nomination.

Sincerely,

Harold A. Schaitberger
General President