



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
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July 20, 2015

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
c/o Kate Moore
2400 JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 5, 2015 forwarding correspondence from the Town of Medway Board of Health, regarding the use crumb rubber in artificial turf and the release of a review of this product by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC").

The Commission takes seriously the issue of the risks to consumers, especially children, from being exposed to harmful chemicals from any consumer product, including crumb rubber. This is why, as our Chairman Elliot Kaye said recently before a congressional hearing, the agency is seeking to work with our federal partners to address the types of questions raised by the Town of Medway Board of Health regarding exposure risk from these materials. Using the combined resources of agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences ("NIEHS"), and the National Toxicology Program ("NTP"), which are located within the National Institutes of Health ("NIH"), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ("ATSDR"), and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("FDA"), we believe these questions can be answered more quickly than by any one agency alone.

As you may be aware, in 2008, CPSC investigated the potential hazards from lead in field turf. CPSC staff concluded at the time that lead exposure would not exceed the staff's recommended limit. Nevertheless, working with CPSC staff, the synthetic turf

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren

July 20, 2015

Page 2

industry voluntarily changed its standards and now requires that the synthetic turf fibers in artificial turf contain less than 300 mg/kg (ppm) of lead. Back in 2008, under a different CPSC administration, the agency issued a press release noting that it was "safe" to play on these surfaces with respect to the chemical content in them. The agency has now formally changed its position because of the small sample size involved in the study of the product. From a technical standpoint, CPSC is not in a position to comment on the potential health risks from crumb rubber infill on artificial surfaces made for athletic use. In other words, the agency does not stand by the title of the 2008 press release, which led to our seeking the assistance of our partner agencies.

Regarding the Town of Medway Board of Health's reference to a "review study" of crumb rubber, in 2013, CPSC staff informed Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility ("PEER") that our Office of Compliance would undertake a review and determine whether any enforcement action was appropriate regarding the issue. Upon further exploration, Compliance staff concluded, at that time, specific product enforcement was unlikely to be the best option, based upon the need for individual health assessments, among other factors. To my knowledge, this information has also been communicated to PEER.

Thank you again for your letter, and for your continued support of public safety and the Commission. Should you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at (301) 504-7853 or by e-mail at JLevine@cpsc.gov.

Sincerely,



Jason K. Levine