May 1, 2023

Alexander Hoehn-Saric, Chair  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
4330 East West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Docket No. CPSC-2023-0009

Dear Chair Hoehn-Saric,

As elected officials from across the country, we write to support the efforts of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to investigate the chronic hazards associated with gas ranges and proposed solutions to those hazards.

The science behind the concerns about gas stove pollution is decades long and growing. Cooking with gas can produce air pollution levels indoors that would exceed outdoor standards. That means that doing something as simple and innocuous as making a meal can release pollutants into our homes that some studies show lead to the development of asthma, especially in children, and may worsen symptoms for those with preexisting respiratory illnesses.

And yet, most people still think cooking with gas is the best option. Popular culture says gas is superior — that “real chefs” would only use gas stoves. That’s because gas companies have marketed the products in ways that extoll the virtues of gas stoves, without adequately acknowledging the potential health risks. As a result, consumers are not warned of the risks when they purchase a gas stove. While proper ventilation is important for reducing exposure to indoor air pollution, ventilation is not universally required for installing a gas stove, and many people who have ventilation don’t use it every time they cook.

Today, nearly a third of American households have a gas stove. That’s millions of households potentially being exposed to toxic pollutants every time they make a meal -- and running a gas stove for even just one hour can lead to pollutant levels that exceed health-based standards.

We encourage the CPSC to consider the levels and effects on nitrogen dioxide (NO2), fine particulate matter (PM2.5), carbon monoxide (CO), benzene and all pollutants that recent research has indicated are associated with burning gas in stoves. The CPSC should also consider the disproportionate impacts felt by vulnerable populations, including children, older Americans, lower-income families and people of color.
Thank you for your work to protect American consumers and for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Heather Jefts
Cedar Park, Texas

Councilmember Sudhanshu Jain
Santa Clara, California

Councilmember Stephanie Hellman
Fairfax, California

Councilmember Kellie Hinze
Encinitas, California

Councilmember Victor Aguilar, Jr.
San Leandro, California

Vice Mayor Eli H. Beckman
Corte Madera, California

Councilmember Max Perrey
Mill Valley, California

Mayor Ariel Kelley
Healdsburg, California

Councilmember Kate Harrison
Berkeley, California

Councilmember George Syrop
Hayward, California

Vice Mayor Gayle McLaughlin
Richmond, California

Councilmember Harvey Rarback
Half Moon Bay, California
Mayor Jen Wolosin
Menlo Park, California

Councilmember David Cohen
San Jose, California

Councilmember Caroline Torosis
Santa Monica, California

Councilmember Cesar Zepeda
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Mayor Chance Cutrano
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Mayor John J. Bauters
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Councilmember Maria Doerr
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Mayor Alison Hicks
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Councilmember Kathy Watanabe
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Mayor Alex Walker-Griffin
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Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia
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Councilmember Christine Boles
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Councilmember Betsy Nash
Menlo Park, California

Councilmember Rigel Robinson
Berkeley, California

Assemblymember Phil Ting
San Francisco, California

Councilmember Carlos Romero
East Palo Alto, California

Councilmember Dan Kalb
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Councilmember James Coleman
City of South San Francisco, California

Mayor Sally Meadows
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State Senator Scott Weiner
California, Senate District 11

Councilmember Preston Jordan
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Councilmember Terrell Kullaway
San Anselmo, California

State Representative Maurice West
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State Representative Lindsey LaPointe
Chicago, Illinois

State Representative Kelly Cassidy
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Massachusetts Senate Majority Leader Cynthia Creem
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