



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

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ANNE M. NORTHUP ON AGENCY INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES –
PRIZE COMPETITIONS AND CONTESTS**

April 13, 2011

I voted today to approve a Federal Register notice requesting clearance from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to conduct information collection activities in connection with CPSC-sponsored competitions and contests. I did so because I agree that competitions and contests can be a cost-effective way to increase the knowledge and awareness of schoolchildren of safety hazards, and to recognize the support of the CPSC's product safety mission provided by scientists, business leaders, entrepreneurs and others.

However, I also wish to express my concern about the amount of taxpayer dollars the agency contemplates spending on this program. The notice indicates that seven GS-15 level and three Senior Executive Service level employees "would support the contest or award activities annually", for a combined total of almost 1500 hours, at a cost to the government of over \$100,000. In today's environment of continued economic hardship and out of control deficit spending, the President has asked executive agencies to identify ways to reduce their spending, and the Congress has and will continue to cut agency budgets. Yet this agency seems not to be getting the message. Surely, the CPSC's goal of increasing public awareness and recognizing public support can be achieved by delegating responsibility for conducting and grading contests and administering awards programs to employees earning less than SES or GS-15 salaries.

I hope that when the time comes to develop these contests and award programs and to assign agency staff to administer them, the agency will be sensitive to our need to better manage our resources. The CPSC has an important message to convey, but it should be done in a cost-effective manner that respects the imperative to reduce our nation's unsustainable deficit spending.