



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20207

Record of Commission Action
Commissioners Voting by Ballot*

Commissioners Voting: Chairman Ann Brown
 Commissioner Mary Sheila Gall
 Commissioner Thomas H. Moore

ITEM:

Fiscal Year 2001 Operating Plan

DECISION:

The Commission voted 2-1 to approve the staff-recommended operating plan for fiscal year (FY) 2001 at the Congressionally-approved funding level of \$52.5 million as presented in the staff briefing package of November 13, 2000. Chairman Brown and Commissioner Moore voted to approve the recommended operating plan. Commissioner Gall voted not to approve and filed a statement concerning her vote in this matter, copy attached.

For the Commission:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sadye E. Dunn".

Sadye E. Dunn
Secretary

* Ballot vote due November 21, 2000



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**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE MARY SHEILA GALL
IN OPPOSITION TO THE FY 2001 OPERATING PLAN**

November 17, 2000

I voted against the Operating Plan because it reduces the funds for training. The spending levels contained in the President's Request, and for which Congress appropriated funds for FY 2001, contemplated \$175,000 for training. I supported this budget request, even though \$175,000 may be inadequate, given the number of our employees and the high levels of technical expertise necessary to staff the Commission adequately.

The Operating Plan contemplates reducing the funding for training by \$50,000 (29%) to pay for other operating expenses. In the nine years that I have served as a Commissioner, the Commission has allocated very little money for training, and the training budget has been among the first sources of funds to be tapped when other needs are identified. In FY2000, the Commission finally allocated a reasonable sum for training, only to find that it did not have a good chance to spend the money because a program to identify and coordinate training needs was not in place. By reducing the funding for training this year, we send a message that the Commission does not really consider training important. This also gives managers little incentive to make training a priority. Unless the Commission earmarks an adequate amount for training, and follows through to ensure that it is spent efficiently, the Commission staff will never receive the training commensurate with its need for technical expertise. I am also concerned that the training budget, having been identified once again as a source of funds, will be the subject of continuing "raids" throughout the fiscal year as other needs are identified.

There is much good, and much I support in this Operating Plan. The reduction in training funds, coupled with the high importance that I attach to training, compel me to vote against it. The staff has committed to develop a plan to identify and coordinate training opportunities during FY2001 and believes that if training needs in excess of the suggested funding level are identified, the Commission can approve additional funds. I intend to monitor the staff's further steps to implement this plan and hope that this funding can be restored during the fiscal year.