



UNITED STATES  
**CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION**  
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY  
BETHESDA, MD 20814

ACTING CHAIRMAN ROBERT ADLER

**Statement of Acting Chairman Robert S. Adler on the Vote to  
Approve Filing of an Administrative Complaint Against Amazon.com**

**July 14, 2021**

Today the Commission voted to file an administrative complaint against Amazon.com, the world's largest retailer, to require them to take responsibility for recalling products sold under their "Fulfilled by Amazon" channel.

I voted to approve the filing of the complaint, but I did so with great reluctance. It is true that CPSC faces a massive challenge in ensuring that consumers are protected from potentially hazardous products sold on third-party platforms. Alas, our statute is not perfectly clear on the point because these types of platforms did not exist when the agency was formed or when our statute was updated in 2008. That means that for every product for which CPSC determines a recall is necessary, a lengthy negotiation must first take place about the threshold question of whether that sales platform is even subject to our laws. If they resist, that leaves the agency without a full partner in recall activities, since many of the suppliers to these platforms are not domestic companies or companies with the financial ability to conduct recalls.

Clearly the current approach is not sustainable. To continue product-by-product is like using an eyedropper to empty the ocean—ineffective, inefficient, and frustratingly insufficient to protect consumers. The best solution to this problem would be for CPSC and third-party platforms to work together to craft agreements that establish a framework for dealing with these products.

I look ahead to a future of CPSC's interaction with these behemoth businesses with great concern. I hope that today's action will inspire stakeholders to help the agency to solve this problem for consumers.