



**Statement of the Honorable Thomas H. Moore  
On the temporary restoration of the quorum  
At the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission**

**August 3, 2007**

I want to express my deep appreciation to Senator Mark Pryor for working to ensure the restoration of the Commission's quorum. His support of our agency and its mission means that CPSC can once again exercise its full powers to protect the American public from hazards associated with consumer products.

Recently I expressed my great concern about the future of our agency due to several years of funding and staff reductions. I also said I was gratified that certain Members of Congress recognized our plight and had given strong indications that they would increase our funding and strengthen our authority.

CPSC has also suffered in recent months from the lack of a quorum which has hampered our ability to carry out our responsibilities. Our quorum expired in January of this year and since that time we have not been able to take such actions as move rulemaking proceedings forward, accept negotiated civil penalties, issue subpoenas, sign MOUs with foreign governments or sanction any changes to our already Commission approved budgetary items. Even our ability to negotiate with companies with respect to voluntary recalls has been compromised.

One Member of Congress who has shown his commitment to fight for our agency is Senator Mark Pryor. Through his leadership and hard work, Congress voted to restore our quorum as part of H.R. 1, the "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007." With the President's signing of that bill, the agency can resume the functions that it has been unable to perform since January. Senator Pryor's support was instrumental in achieving this victory for American consumers. The Commission, and the American public, certainly owe Senator Pryor a debt of gratitude for his concern and his hard work.