Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2006

The Honorable Emily Reynolds
Secretary of the Senate
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510-7100

Dear Ms. Reynolds:

We are writing to transmit the findings of our recent investigation into the lead content of children's products in Capitol gift shops. As we notified you several weeks ago when we received preliminary test results, this investigation revealed dangerous lead levels in several items purchased from the U.S. Senate Gift Shops located in the Capitol and the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

After we notified you of the preliminary test results, you took immediate action by removing the lead-bearing items from your shelves. We commend you for taking this step.

We are writing now to urge you to take two additional steps to ensure the safety of past and future consumers: (1) establish mechanisms to prevent future purchases of lead-contaminated items and (2) undertake efforts to notify customers who may have bought these items of the potential health hazards.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Our staff is available to answer any questions you may have about the findings of our investigation.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives

Barack Obama
United States Senator

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