

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2023

Dr. Marta L. Tellado, Ph.D.
President & CEO
Consumer Reports
101 Truman Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10703

Dear Dr. Tellado:

As the Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability—which has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X—and the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation—which has jurisdiction over the Consumer Product Safety Commission (“CPSC”)—we write regarding *Consumer Reports*’ role in CPSC’s recent efforts to impose a de facto ban on gas stoves. On March 16, 2023, one of us—Ranking Member Cruz—wrote to you requesting information and documents about this matter. Your organization has, however, refused to substantively answer most of those requests.

As you know, CPSC has already taken the necessary first step toward a gas stove ban, having recently issued a Request for Information “on chronic hazards associated with gas ranges and proposed solutions.”¹ Indeed, in advocating for this action, CPSC relied on *Consumer Reports* articles.² And (at least) one *Consumer Reports* article regarding gas stoves was funded by the left-wing Climate Imperative Foundation.³

Rather than answering in full the March 16 request for information and documents about your group’s gas-stove related efforts, *Consumer Reports* gave a general description of its operations and a summary of the October 4, 2022 Climate Imperative Foundation-funded article. *Consumer Reports*’ response neglected to answer questions that directly concern the American people, including whether *Consumer Reports* has discussed gas stoves with the CPSC or members of the Biden administration and what support it has received from the Climate Imperative Foundation to publish gas stove-related articles.

¹ CPSC, *Request for Information on Chronic Hazards Associated with Gas Ranges and Proposed Solutions* (Mar. 7, 2023), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/03/07/2023-04554/request-for-information-on-chronic-hazards-associated-with-gas-ranges-and-proposed-solutions>.

² Memorandum from the Office of Commissioner Rich Trumka, *NPR Proposing Ban on Gas Stoves (Indoor Air Quality)*, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (Oct. 25, 2022).

³ Paul Hope, *Is Your Gas Range a Health Risk?*, CONSUMER REPORTS (Oct. 4, 2022), <https://www.consumerreports.org/appliances/indoor-air-quality/is-your-gas-range-a-health-risk-a6971504915/>.

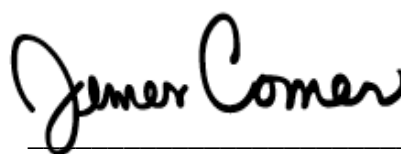
Such lack of transparency with Congress and the American public is unacceptable. We therefore expect a complete written response to the requests for information and documents made in the March 16 letter no later than May 10, 2023. For your reference, these requests are included as an appendix to this letter. Further, this letter serves as a reminder to preserve any and all documents and information, including e-mails, text messages, internal message system messages, calls, logs of meetings, and internal memoranda, responsive to the requests in the March 16, 2023 letter.

We look forward to your forthcoming prompt and complete response.

Sincerely,



Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Accountability

Encl: Requests for Information and Documents from March 16, 2023 Letter

Requests for Information and Documents from March 16, 2023 Letter

1. State whether any contributor, writer, employee, director, or executive of *Consumer Reports* discussed gas stoves or ranges with any person at CPSC, including Commissioner Trumka and his staff. If so, please: (i) provide a list of all persons who took part in each discussion, (ii) identify the dates and manner of each discussion, and (iii) provide all documents and communications regarding the discussion(s).
2. State whether any contributor, writer, employee, director, or executive of *Consumer Reports* discussed CPSC's work, or potential work, related to gas stoves or ranges with anyone in the White House or anyone else in the administration. If so, please: (i) provide a list of all persons who took part in each discussion, (ii) identify the dates and manner of each discussion, and (iii) provide all documents and communications regarding the discussion(s).
3. On October 4, 2022, *Consumer Reports* published an article titled, "Is Your Gas Range a Health Risk?" (the "October 2022 article"). An editor's note at the bottom of that article states that "[t]his project was funded in part with a grant from the Climate Imperative Foundation." CIF's 2021 IRS 990 form states that *Consumer Reports* received \$375,000 from CIF.
 - a) Confirm that CIF provided \$375,000 to fund work related to the October 2022 article. Identify the precise purpose(s) for which CIF directed that money be used.
 - b) State whether *Consumer Reports* used the \$375,000 that CIF provided for anything other than work related to the October 2022 article. If so, identify the additional ways *Consumer Reports* utilized that money.
 - c) Identify whether CIF first approached *Consumer Reports* about the October 2022 article or *Consumer Reports* first approached CIF. Either way, identify when the first conversation regarding any work related to what was to become the October 2022 article (including testing, research, concerns about gas stoves, etc.) took place and who was involved in those conversations.
 - d) Provide any grants, contracts, or other agreements, including informal email communications, concerning CIF's payment of \$375,000 to *Consumer Reports*.
4. State whether CIF provided any funding, support, or otherwise had any involvement at all in the following articles: (1) the January 12, 2023 *Consumer Reports* article titled, "Induction Cooktops and Ranges Are So Good You May Not Miss Your Gas Appliance," (2) the June 22, 2022 *Consumer Reports* article titled, "Pros and Cons of Induction Cooktops and Ranges," and/or (3) the August 12, 2022 *Consumer Reports* article titled, "What the Inflation Reduction Act Could Mean for Your Next Appliance Purchase." If so, describe CIF's involvement in those articles.

In your description, please include the following information:

- (i) the amount of money or describe the type of support,
 - (ii) the date on which it was provided,
 - (iii) the purpose for which it was provided, and
 - (iv) any studies, reports, articles, or any other publications that were generated through that funding or support.
5. State whether CIF has ever provided any additional money or support (*i.e.*, goods or services) to *Consumer Reports* beyond the \$375,000 for work related to the October 2022 article. Please answer with a “yes” or “no” before providing any further response. For all other monies or support provided by CIF to *Consumer Reports*:
- (i) identify the amount of money or describe the type of support,
 - (ii) identify the date on which it was provided,
 - (iii) state the purpose for which it was provided, and
 - (iv) identify any studies, reports, articles, or any other publications that were generated through that funding or support.
6. Identify *Consumer Reports*' policy on disclosing donors who contribute, in whole or in part, to a study, article, or any other publication issued by *Consumer Reports*.