

**Consumer Action • Consumer Federation of America • Consumers Union  
National Association of Consumer Advocates • National Consumers League  
National Consumer Law Center • Public Citizen  
U.S. Public Interest Research Group**

January 13, 2014

United States Senate  
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senator:

As presidents and chief executive officers of many of the nation's leading consumer organizations, we are writing to welcome you to the start of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress and to urge you to ensure that gains made on behalf of American consumers remain in effect and, where appropriate, strengthened. The safety of the food we eat, the products we buy, the healthcare we receive and the financial services we choose depend up it.

Now is not the time to turn back the clock on consumer protections and advances. If sensible consumer safeguards are weakened, not only are individuals harmed, but the stability of the entire economy and confidence in the marketplace can be threatened. That not only harms individuals, but can threaten the stability of the entire economy and confidence in the marketplace. We want to work with you, other lawmakers and the Administration to find opportunities to expand and improve upon consumer rights during the next two years.

Our organizations are united in working to fight for issues most pressing to American consumers. Attached is our agenda to level the playing field for consumers, which we are also sharing with the Administration. "A Robust Agenda for Consumers" describes several essential consumer priorities:

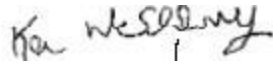
- Ensuring financial security
- Making health care affordable, accessible and safe
- Protecting regulatory safeguards
- Making sure our food, products and cars are safe
- Building on environmental progress
- Ensuring the Internet remains affordable and accessible
- Keeping legal avenues open to all consumers
- Working for more competition and consumer choice
- Promoting fair trade
- Reducing the influence of money in politics

We know the challenges ahead are great, but this is a critical moment for American consumers and the country at large. The financial crisis of 2008 made it brutally clear how damaging lax oversight can be for individuals and the economy. Consumers simply want and deserve a fair shake in the marketplace.

By working together and helping consumers make more informed decisions, we want to build an influential consumer movement that will be a force for change.

We look forward to working with you in the months ahead to achieve these critical goals.

Sincerely,



Ken McEldowney  
Executive Director  
Consumer Action



Ira Rheingold  
Executive Director  
National Association of Consumer  
Advocates



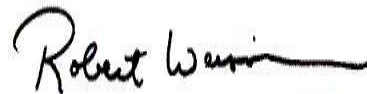
Stephen Brobeck  
Executive Director  
Consumer Federation of America



Sally Greenberg  
Executive Director  
National Consumer League



Willard P. Ogburn  
Executive Director  
National Consumer Law Center  
(on behalf of its low income clients)



Robert Weissman  
President  
Public Citizen



Marta Tellado  
President and CEO  
Consumers Union



Andre Delattre  
Executive Director  
U.S. PIRG

**Websites and Organizational Contacts Regarding This Agenda:**

Consumer Action ([consumer-action.org](http://consumer-action.org))

Linda Sherry, Director, National Priorities; 202-544-3088

Consumer Federation of America ([consumerfed.org](http://consumerfed.org))

Rachel Weintraub, Legislative Director, 202-387-6121

Consumers Union ([consumersunion.org](http://consumersunion.org))

Ellen Bloom, Senior Director of Federal Policy and the Washington Office, 202-462-6262

National Association of Consumer Advocates ([naca.net](http://naca.net))

Ira Rheingold, Executive Director, 202-452-1989 x101

National Consumers League ([nclnet.org](http://nclnet.org))

Sally Greenberg, Executive Director, 202-452-6252

National Consumer Law Center ([nclc.org](http://nclc.org))

Lauren Saunders, Associate Director, Washington Office, 202-595-7845

Public Citizen ([citizen.org](http://citizen.org))

Lisa Gilbert, Director Public Citizen's Congress Watch, 202-454 -5188

U.S. Public Interest Research Group ([uspirg.org](http://uspirg.org))

Ed Mierzwinski, Consumer Program Director, 202-461-3821