



January 23, 2023

Michele Buck  
CEO  
The Hershey Company  
19 E Chocolate Ave.  
Hershey, PA 17033

Dear Ms. Buck,

We write to urge The Hershey Company to commit to reducing the levels of lead and cadmium in your dark chocolate products. A recent Consumer Reports' study found concerning levels of these heavy metals in your Lily's Extremely Dark Chocolate. Our tests also found high levels of lead in your Hershey's Special Dark Mildly Sweet Chocolate.

Consumers are troubled that many of their favorite dark chocolate bars contain high levels of heavy metals. Many choose to eat dark chocolate because of its potential health benefits and relatively low levels of sugar. But there's nothing healthy about ingesting heavy metals. Consistent, long-term exposure to even small amounts can lead to a variety of health problems, including nervous system issues, immunosuppression and kidney damage. The danger is even greater for young children and pregnant people, as the metals can cause developmental problems.

Enclosed you will find a petition signed by over 50,000 people who are urging Hershey's to immediately address the issue of cadmium and lead in its dark chocolate, and publicly commit to reducing levels of these heavy metals. Consumers enjoying your products should not be unwittingly exposed to health-threatening substances.

As Valentine's Day approaches - a day with traditions around candy, specifically chocolate - we would like to ask you to make a commitment in time for the holiday, so that we might communicate the good news to lovers of Hershey's and Lily's chocolates.

Thank you for your attention to this issue, and hope you will act urgently to address this issue. Please provide a response by February 3, 2023. If you would like to discuss this matter, please contact me at (202) 744-5291.

Sincerely,

Brian Ronholm  
Director, Food Policy  
Consumer Reports