



September 26, 2023

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Innovation,
Data, and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Innovation,
Data, and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bilirakis and Ranking Member Schakowsky:

On behalf of Consumer Reports (CR), the independent, non-profit, nonpartisan member organization, we write in advance of the Subcommittee's September 27, 2023, hearing to state for the record our endorsement of H.R. 1797, the Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act. We strongly support this bipartisan legislation, which would ensure the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) can set strong safety standards for micromobility devices, such as e-bikes, e-scooters, and hoverboards, in a timely manner.

Micromobility products can be a useful, cost-effective, and fun way to get around. They have soared in popularity in recent years, and many of them are manufactured overseas and imported to the U.S. Unfortunately, fires and explosions linked to the products have also proliferated. Since 2021, micromobility devices using high energy density batteries have been linked to hundreds of fires and over two dozen fatalities, including the deaths of multiple children.

Last year, CR published an investigation into the surge of deadly fires linked to e-bikes. While specific information on the manufacturers or brands tied to these fires is not publicly available, fire experts have said they suspect that low-quality batteries from fringe players are often to blame.

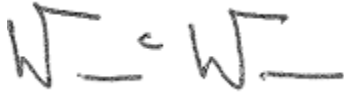
On July 27, 2023, the CPSC held a lithium-ion battery safety forum, in which CR, industry stakeholders such as PeopleForBikes and the National Bicycle Dealers Association, the New York City Fire Department, and numerous safety experts spoke to the potential dangers posed by these products, and what can be done to address the growing crisis. The universal consensus from forum participants was that micromobility products using high energy density batteries should be required to meet a mandatory federal safety standard. Such a standard would level the playing field and help ensure that manufacturers and sellers put safety first. While noting existing legal authority, the CPSC Chair also stated that the agency could move more quickly with the assistance of Congress.

Thankfully, a bipartisan bill before this Subcommittee would address this emerging but addressable hazard. The Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act (H.R. 1797),

introduced by Rep. Ritchie Torres and New York colleagues of his from each party, would require the CPSC to promulgate a safety standard for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility devices, and require the agency to issue a final rule in a timely manner.

Consumer Reports strongly supports H.R. 1797 and urges every member of the Subcommittee to cosponsor this sensible bill. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,



William Wallace
Associate Director, Safety Policy



Gabe Knight
Safety Policy Analyst

cc: The Honorable Ritchie Torres
U.S. House of Representatives

Enclosure: Consumer Reports story by Stephanie Clifford, December 8, 2022: “‘Fire! Fire! Fire!’ The Perplexing, Deadly Electric Bike Problem” ([consumerreports.org/health/electric-bikes/electric-bike-fires-and-lithium-ion-batteries-a4632489902](https://www.consumerreports.org/health/electric-bikes/electric-bike-fires-and-lithium-ion-batteries-a4632489902)).