



May 26, 2011

Chairman John D. Rockefeller IV
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller:

Consumers Union, the non-profit publisher of *Consumer Reports*, writes in support of your legislation, the “Button Cell Battery Safety Act of 2011.” We applaud your leadership on this consumer safety issue.

Your bill will help ensure that button and coin cell batteries remain secure within the consumer products they are used in – everything from remote controls to greeting cards – and do not become accessible to small children, who may swallow the batteries because of their very small size.

Button and coin cell batteries are not just a choking hazard to young children; if swallowed, they can do serious internal damage to the esophagus, stomach, or intestines. The moist lining of the gastrointestinal tract acts as a conductor and allows current to flow through the battery causing internal burns. The longer the battery remains in the body, the more severe the burns can become—lasting damage can occur within just two hours. Ingestion injuries are hard to diagnose, and, if misdiagnosed, the consequences could be fatal.

Again, we applaud your leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with you to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

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