

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

11 December 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

[via email]

Dear Majority Leader Reid,

As presidents and chief executive officers of many of the nation's leading consumer organizations, we would like to thank you for your leadership on key issues in this Congress, including, for example, passing critical consumer product safety and housing reforms and preventing attacks on consumer's access to courts.

As we prepare for a new presidential Administration and a new Congress, we also write to let you know that our organizations have united to redouble our efforts on the issues most pressing to American consumers and American competitiveness. We intend to work together to amplify our voices and resources on these matters both now and in the upcoming Congress and Administration.

As the events of recent months have shown, weak consumer protections don't just harm individual Americans, but the economic security of the entire nation. Inadequate laws and poor oversight of credit and financial services have led to a huge loss of wealth for many American families and triggered an economic recession. We plan to elevate the consumer voice and educate Americans about what's really at stake in the marketplace when it comes to their health, their pocketbooks, and their safety. We see this agenda as a key starting point for consumers and journalists.

We have attached "An Agenda To Close Growing Gaps In Marketplace Protections." The document describes six essential priorities, including protecting pocketbooks, ensuring access to justice, stopping the distribution of unsafe food, and achieving affordable and safe health care. We also intend to ask the new Congress and the new Administration to reinstate the once-successful position of the White House Special Advisor on Consumer Affairs. Consumers should have a voice at the president's ear.

By working together and helping consumers make more informed decisions, we are building an influential consumer movement that will be a force for change. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to achieve these critical goals.

Sincerely,

Letter from Consumer Group CEOs To Speaker Pelosi To Accompany
"An Agenda To Close Growing Gaps In Marketplace Protections," 2 December 2008



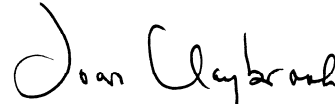
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cc: President-elect Obama, Speaker Pelosi
Republican Leaders Boehner and McConnell

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