



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

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COMMISSIONER PETER A. FELDMAN

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER PETER A. FELDMAN ON
FY 2021 MIDYEAR II SPENDING PLAN**

April 14, 2021

Today, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a spending plan for a portion of the funds Congress provided in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. I am pleased this package takes steps to establish an e-commerce team, something for which I have long advocated. This plan is not perfect, but represents a positive step towards modernizing the agency.

There is more work to be done.

This plan falls short with respect to port staffing. Our Congressional mandate is clear: we must “to the maximum extent feasible” meet the goal of screening at least 90 percent of risk-scored imports. Even with the additional inspectors called for in this plan, we learned today that we will still fall short of the 90 percent goal. I proposed an amendment to fix this.

More detail is needed on the communications campaigns called for in the plan, including what the agency will do and how it will measure success. Once again, I would like to thank my colleagues for their support of my amendment prohibiting the use of taxpayer dollars for celebrities and social media influencers. It remains my hope that the Commission will approve an overarching directive regarding the agency’s use of social media influencers and other non-governmental spokespeople, which has been controversial.

Make no mistake, Congress didn’t provide this \$50 million because it thought we’re doing a good job. We can, and must, do better. I will continue to press for increased staff at our highest-volume ports, transparency, and accountability.

COPF AMENDMENTS ON PROPOSED FY 21 SPENDING PLAN FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

1. Prohibition on compensation for non-government spokespeople

Purpose: To eliminate the use of taxpayer dollars to compensate actors, social media influencers, media personalities, or any other non-government spokespeople as a part of CPSC’s Office of Communication’s public service announcements.

The proposed fiscal year 2021 Spending Plan of the American Rescue Plan Act funds is amended, in Section 4, by inserting, at the appropriate place, the following:

“Prohibition on Compensation for Non-government Spokespeople: With the exception of approved contractors, non-government spokespeople shall not be compensated, directly or indirectly, as part of any project, unless a majority of the Commission approves or the engagement is on a pro bono basis. Any directives governing the use of influencers, supported by a majority of Commissioners, shall supersede this requirement.”

2. Weekly reporting on high-risk screenings required

Purpose: To ensure transparency in meeting the goals set forward in the port surveillance provisions of Title XX of Division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. 116-260.

The proposed fiscal year 2021 Spending Plan of the American Rescue Plan Act Funds is amended by inserting, at the appropriate place, the following:

- (1) Staff shall include in its weekly Port and Field Staffing report to the Commission information that describes the percentage of consumer products entering the United States that are risk-scored in the Risk Assessment Methodology system that were screened at import for possible violations of CPSC mandatory rules and/or voluntary standards.

3. Additional port inspectors to meet 90 percent screening objective

Purpose: To ensure compliance with the objective set forward in the port surveillance provisions of Title XX of Division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. 116-260.

The proposed fiscal year 2021 Spending Plan of the American Rescue Plan Act funds is amended by inserting, at the appropriate place, the following:

- (1) If, by September 30, 2021, the percentage of consumer products entering the United States that are risk-scored in the Risk Assessment Methodology system that are screened at import for possible violations of CPSC mandatory rules and/or voluntary standards

does not meet or exceed 90 percent, staff shall immediately hire, train, and assign up to 10 additional full-time equivalent personnel to be stationed at the highest volume ports of entry in order to achieve the 90 percent screening objective.

4. Remedial screenings of product inventories that entered the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic

Purpose: To ensure transparency in meeting the goals set forward in the port surveillance provisions of Title XX of Division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. 116-260.

The proposed fiscal year 2021 spending plan of the American Rescue Plan Act funds is amended by inserting, at the appropriate place, the following:

- (1) For the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, staff shall provide, in the weekly Port and Field Staffing Report to the Commission, information regarding the remedial steps taken to mitigate the risks associated with the reduction in Commission port inspection activity during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly threats to vulnerable populations, especially children and seniors.