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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 5, 1973

Mr. Charles L. Aronson
Beacon Paint Works, Inc.
76 Stanley Road
Jamaica Plain, Mass. 02130

Dear Mr. Aronson:

Thank you very much for contacting me regarding the provisions of S 607 and your particular concern over its requirement that the lead level in paint be reduced to no higher than .5%.

As you undoubtedly know, under regulations issued by the FDA last year, all paint intended for interior surfaces of residence had to meet a .5% standard by January 1, 1973, and will have to meet a .06% standard by January of 1974. My legislation is designed to reinforce these standards by writing them into the law. I certainly share your view that all previously produced high lead paint must be removed from exposure to young children, and my bill will enable the federal government to aid in this effort.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has done extensive research into the daily permissible intake of lead a child can tolerate without adverse effects. These studies show that .06% is the maximum acceptable level of lead which paint should contain if children are not to be endangered.

Realizing the importance of determining whether our technology would permit the production of interior paints at this level, a number of paint manufacturers were called to testify during our hearings last year. The larger manufacturers advised us that their interior paints already meet the standard, and the smaller manufacturers indicated that the 1974 deadline was a reasonable time to enable them to meet the new requirements.

Again, I appreciated the time you took to be in touch with me. I am confident that the technology exists to meet the standards of S 607 and thereby to protect our children -- and that we can do so without placing an unnecessary burden on the paint industry.

Sincerely,

Ed Kennedy
Edward M. Kennedy

0007-SWP-036422