

Sample Letter to Your Congressional Representative

Date

The Honorable (Representative or Senator X)
Office Address
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative or Senator X:

Please help support efforts to ban the selling and distribution of novelty lighters. Designed to look like toys, novelty lighters are causing serious injuries to children and families throughout the United States.

If you visit Ebay and view the items listed under “novelty lighter,” you can see the problem first hand; several hundred lighters disguised as toy animals, cell phones, key rings, baseballs, pistols and other colorful items that attract children who see them as playthings. There is simply no good reason why these lighters exist.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal’s office is now gathering incident information from fire service organizations throughout the country. Our goal is to provide a statistical report to the Consumer Product Safety Commission on the types and numbers of injuries and property damage resulting from children playing with novelty lighters.

Time is not on our side. Last May, ten European countries voted to ban novelty lighters through the European Consumers Organisation. Many of those (now illegal) lighters will end up in the United States, where their sale remains legal. I hope you will support the fire service in our efforts to eliminate novelty lighters and the dangers they create for children and their families.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Your Address
Your phone number and email address