

Legislative District 23-A
Prince George's County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Chairman
Public Health and
Long Term Care Subcommittee

Joint Committee on
Children, Youth, and Families

Joint Committee on
Federal Relations

Joint Committee on
Investigation



The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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February 6, 2008

Ambassador Susan C. Schwab
The Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Schwab,

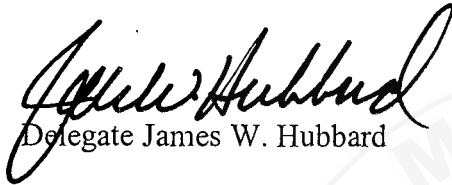
We are in receipt of a communication from the People's Republic of China which appears to challenge the authority of the Maryland General Assembly to enact legislation to protect our children from poisonous products. We understand that China was alerted to this legislation by persons who may be with your office. We are at a loss to understand why the United States Government would encourage China to bring a trade case against legislation which would apply to any manufacturer of any poisonous product targeting the children's market irrespective of where that product was made. Further we cannot understand why any representative of the United States Government would suggest to a foreign government that it become involved in the legislative process of the State of Maryland.

To better understand the posture of the United States Government and the complaint of the PRC we would like to know what if any international trade agreements might have any application to Maryland State law. We would also like clarification of the position of the United States Government on this particular matter. For your

reference, I have enclosed a copy of HB62, which I originally introduced as HB8 during our special session last fall.

Your immediate attention to this matter is essential as I would expect action to occur on this legislation within the next few days. The Maryland General Assembly meets for 90 days each year and our session this year has only 60 days remaining.

Sincerely,


Delegate James W. Hubbard

Cc: Tiffany Moore, Director of the Public Liaison Office
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate
The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer
The Honorable Peter A. Hammen
The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton