

Refer to H.R. 6805
UN 6805

NATIONAL COALITION For The Consumer Protection Agency

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July 22, 1977

The Honorable Tom Steed
 U. S. House of Representatives
 Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Steed:

The Agency for Consumer Protection (H.R. 6805 and S. 1262) represents a significant step forward in the administration of our federal government. Interests of the consuming public are often neglected in the regulatory process, a field that has grown more complex, technical and cumbersome over the years. Consumer Advocacy should be strengthened for several reasons.

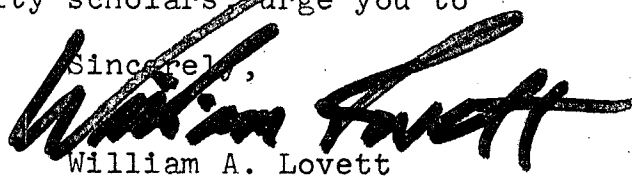
First, the agency will improve the balance among interest groups in our society, and help redress a long standing grievance and sense of unfairness. Second, the agency will be a powerful voice for efficiency, lower costs, and an enemy of red tape and delay. Third, the agency will complement and strengthen other oversight mechanisms in government and help promote accountability in the public sector.

The new agency requires modest budgetary resources. Much of this should come from consolidating many scattered, weak, and ineffective consumer representation offices throughout the bureaucracy.

No new regulatory authority is involved in this legislation. The bill merely creates a more powerful spokesman for consumers within the existing system. The agency's role as a clearinghouse for consumer complaints will be useful in many areas. Its limited authority to obtain additional information through written interrogatories is carefully constrained by stringent OMB clearance procedures, judicial review, and a blanket exemption for small business.

On any sensible balance of cost and benefits, the Agency for Consumer Protection deserves to be enacted. We, the undersigned university scholars, urge you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,



William A. Lovett
 Executive Director
 Professor of Law
 Tulane University

(Authorized signatures on additional pages)

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