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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

STEVE ISRAEL

Third District, New York

December 15, 2015

Director Cherry Murray
Office of Science
Department of Energy
1000 Independent Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Murray,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the safety of Smart Balancing Electric Skate Boards, also known as hoverboards, and request that you allocate existing funds within the Department of Energy's Office of Science to the Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRC) in order to research the safety of lithium-ion batteries used in products such as hoverboards.

Lithium-ion batteries are commonly used in portable consumer electronics, power tools, medical equipment and many other applications; however, when an item using a lithium-ion battery draws too much energy or does not allow a large current to flow properly, large amounts of heat can cause explosions and fires. Hoverboards are run on lithium-ion batteries and the federal government is currently investigating 10 hoverboard fires in nine separate states, including New York. It is imperative that while the Consumer Product Agency Safety Commission (CPASC) investigates the cause of these fires, the proper funding for research is in place to ensure these batteries are safe and effective.

It is my hope that by allocating funding to EFRC to research the safety of lithium-ion batteries, this would enable future production of batteries that not only last longer, are more energy efficient, but are also safer for consumers.

Thank you for your consideration to this important issue and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Israel", written over a white background.

Steve Israel
Member of Congress