

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 13, 2009

The Honorable Inez Moore Tenenbaum
Chairman, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

The Honorable Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH
Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Chairman Tenenbaum, Administrator Jackson and Director Frieden:

As Members of Congress concerned about the issue of contaminated Chinese drywall, we have taken many steps to ensure this situation is handled promptly, accurately, and completely for the potentially thousands of victims across the nation. Since creating the Congressional Contaminated Drywall Caucus, we have met with affected homeowners in our congressional districts and have arranged meetings with many agencies and organizations who have a part to play in resolving this issue, including representatives from your agencies, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Association of Homebuilders, and mortgage lenders; all of whom have pledged to work vigorously to find solutions for homeowners.

We are also pleased that the White House Domestic Policy Council is working directly on this matter, and we look forward to working with the Obama Administration on this issue as more definitive information comes to light. In the meantime, to follow up on our letter sent on July 21, 2009, we would like to provide you with a range of questions for which we hope to obtain answers either through a written response or during the meeting we would like to arrange between your agencies and the Congressional Contaminated Drywall Caucus in early September.

- Will there be a determination about whether the drywall issue is limited to certain Chinese-made drywall products, or all drywall manufactured in China? When do you anticipate releasing information to the public regarding whether all Chinese-made drywall is a problem?
- Are you developing a standardized testing protocol that will be released publicly and will provide a method for establishing whether a drywall problem exists in a home, and at what level the problem exists? If so, will this testing protocol reflect a need to “triage” the various homes to establish the extent of the problem?
- If a standardized testing protocol is being developed, when do you anticipate releasing such protocol?
- Are you developing a remediation strategy that will take into account cases where homes completely contain problematic drywall, and homes that have only partial drywall problems? Will the remediation strategy take into account other factors in remediation such as, but not limited to, whether to cut back wiring or replace all home wiring, whether to replace insulation in

the homes, and whether stud framing and the sheathing that covers the framing structure is negatively impacted by contact with the problematic drywall?

- If a remediation strategy is being developed, how do you intend to address completed remediation efforts already undertaken by builders? Will you review what those builders have done and approve that remediation, or will you require remediation be done again based on your approved strategy?
- Will you be investigating the efficacy of the various chemical treatments and testing protocols currently being offered to the public and affected homeowners? If so, will you be releasing results of your findings, conclusions and recommendations on these products and protocols?
- Are you willing to work with private industry to vet through potential remediation strategies in a joint effort to determine which solutions fully address the problem and are workable in the field?
- Will you work with the building community to develop a “certification” process that provides a seal of approval for homeowners and builders confirming that the house has been remediated according to established federal government requirements?
- Reports indicate a European building materials manufacturing company (Knauf) was involved in importing or producing some of the problematic Chinese drywall. Are you communicating with this company regarding a testing protocol and remediation strategy? If not, are you aware of efforts being undertaken by such a company on these issues? If you are aware of such efforts, do you have an understanding of when such efforts will yield preliminary results?
- Will you be providing guidance to the public and to localities on the proper disposal methods for affected drywall?
- What efforts have been undertaken with officials from the government of China to determine the cause of the problem, and to develop solutions that will prevent a similar situation from ever happening again?
- What steps are presently being taken to prevent the importation of any additional affected drywall into the United States?
- If your agency is not the appropriate entity to respond to any of the above listed concerns, what other federal departments, agencies or entities would be better positioned to investigate and provide answers on these topics?

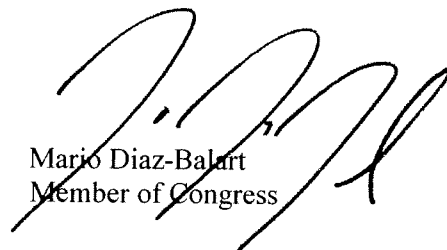
We look forward to continuing our dialogue on this important issue during a proposed meeting in early September and look forward to receiving your timely response to the above listed questions.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress