

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear President Obama:

As you may be aware, the citizens of Florida, Louisiana, Virginia, as well as 22 other states and the District of Columbia, are enduring an ever-worsening emergency situation regarding drywall imported from China that has caused numerous health problems for citizens living in homes with the drywall and serious and worsening damage to homes. This problem is serious and growing, with estimates that hundreds of thousands of homes could be currently affected.

Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a report detailing their findings on initial samples of Chinese drywall taken from homes in South Florida. This drywall sampling analysis shows evidence of a higher-than-normal presence of sulfur, strontium, and iron concentrations in these samples. During a hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance earlier this year, a representative from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed that these chemicals have the potential to cause the symptoms being reported by homeowners who have this drywall, including serious respiratory problems, burning eyes, and bloody noses. Children and pregnant women who are experiencing these symptoms are being advised by medical professionals to leave these homes, and for those who cannot, these symptoms persist.

Aside from the possible health risks, this drywall is also causing corrosion of copper piping and wiring in homes, leading to the failure of air conditioning systems, telecommunications wiring, and other household appliances. Such corrosion produces potential fire and safety hazards in homes and also creates undue expenses for homeowners who are being forced to continuously replace and repair these appliances. Our constituents have expressed great concern about remaining in homes that are currently exhibiting symptoms of this drywall issue without having definitive knowledge of the risks they may be taking in doing so.

In addition, these circumstances have created an undue financial burden on these homeowners, many of whom are being forced to find alternative housing while maintaining their mortgages on homes in which they are unable to reside. At a time when so many Americans are having difficulty maintaining their mortgages and making ends meet, this defective drywall is exacerbating the foreclosure crisis our nation faces and threatens to slow recovery in the housing market in affected areas, particularly in communities that have large pockets of homes built with this drywall.

In that vein, it is imperative that the federal agencies involved in investigating this crisis have all of the relevant information available on the source of this drywall, the chemical makeup of this drywall, how it was produced, how much of it was exported to the United States, and any other information that may be valuable to their efforts. While the Consumer Product Safety

Commission (CPSC) has been in contact with its companion agency in the Chinese government, a representative from the CPSC testified at the Senate Subcommittee hearing that the amount of information exchanged on this issue has been minimal.

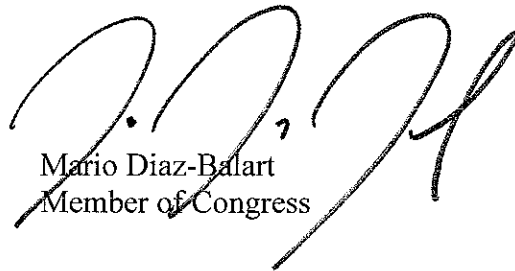
President Obama, on behalf of our constituents and other concerned residents of many states, including Florida, impacted by the issue of contaminated Chinese drywall, we are requesting that you directly raise this critical issue and seek assistance from Chinese President Hu Jintao and his government during the upcoming G-20 meeting in Pittsburgh.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you further on this issue.

Sincerely,



Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress