

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2009

**PROTECT HOMEOWNERS FROM TOXIC DRYWALL**  
**Support H.R. 1977, the Drywall Safety Act of 2009**

Dear Colleague:

As you may be aware, there have been widespread reports over the past few months of serious health risks to thousands of American families, including children and pregnant women, as well as safety and fire hazards caused by Chinese drywall present in residential homes built by developers over the past few years. This drywall is emitting foul-smelling sulfuric odors and gases that are corroding copper electrical wiring in homes and may be responsible for chronic health problems for occupants in these homes.

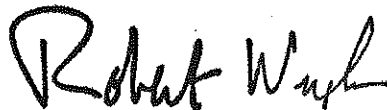
This is an acute and growing crisis with an estimated 35,000 homes in Florida affected, along with homes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Virginia; and, since this product has entered the United States through ports in 14 states, the extent of this crisis is not yet known.

Over the past few weeks, we have been contacted by parents whose young children have developed bronchitis, pneumonia, and other respiratory illnesses that have required hospitalization, and even surgery. Pregnant women have been instructed by their doctors to move out of their homes to avoid health risks to their unborn children. We must act immediately to address this growing crisis. Many of these families sunk their life-savings into the dream of owning a home and cannot afford to simply purchase a new one.

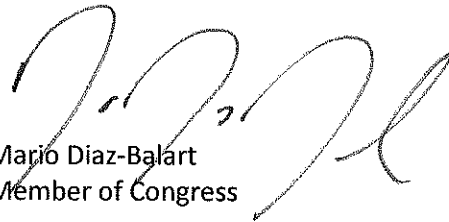
It is critical that the Congress pass legislation to examine this drywall and ensure that those who may be affected are made aware of the threats this product may pose. In this vein, we have introduced H.R. 1977, the Drywall Safety Act of 2009, which requires the Consumer Product and Safety Commission to examine Chinese drywall and make recommendations as to whether new safety standards are necessary to ensure drywall is safe for use in residential construction. This legislation also establishes an immediate ban on any drywall that constitutes a safety hazard. This bill will serve as the House companion to legislation recently introduced by Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Mary Landrieu (D-LA).

For more information about this issue or to become a sponsor of **H.R. 1977**, please contact David Feinman with Rep. Wexler's office at [david.feinman@mail.house.gov](mailto:david.feinman@mail.house.gov) or 5-3001 or Lauren Robitaille with Rep. Mario Diaz Balart's office at [lauren.robitaille@mail.house.gov](mailto:lauren.robitaille@mail.house.gov) or 5-2778.

Sincerely,



Robert Wexler  
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress