

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2009

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

The Honorable Richard E. Besser, MD
Acting Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Administrator Jackson and Director Besser:

As you are aware, the citizens of Florida and many other states are enduring an ever-worsening emergency situation regarding drywall imported from China that has reportedly 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. On behalf of our constituents and other concerned residents of the State of Florida and the nation impacted by the issue of contaminated Chinese drywall, we are requesting that all possible resources be allocated and exhausted to complete both laboratory studies and chamber studies on this drywall as soon as possible. We believe it is imperative that concrete, accurate information on the risks residents of homes built with this drywall are facing be released to the public in an expedited time frame.

During the multi-agency briefing on Capitol Hill on Thursday, April 23, representatives from your agencies discussed the different studies being performed, including studies of the chemical reactions causing the emissions coming from this drywall, the impact of these chemical reactions on appliances and copper wiring in homes, and the potential impact of these emissions on the health of those residing in affected homes. During this briefing, your representatives acknowledged that heat and humidity are two factors that have a bearing on the severity of the symptoms being exhibited in homes already determined to be impacted by this problem. They also acknowledged that the time frame for completion of the above-mentioned tests could run late into this coming summer.

Although we have tremendous respect for capability and expertise of the EPA and CDC on these matters, and we must ensure that a careful, thorough, and accurate scientific analysis is achieved, we respectfully believe the time frame presented by during the multi-agency briefing by which to finalize test results is unacceptable and does not reflect the emergency situation facing homeowners today and the realistic assumption that this crisis will become much worse very soon.

With heat and humidity becoming part of the daily climate conditions in Florida, 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. We share their concern, and also believe based on the variance of symptoms in different homes within communities in our congressional districts, that as heat and humidity become a daily factor in our climate, more homes not already exhibiting symptoms may begin to do so, thus further exacerbating the crisis within our communities.

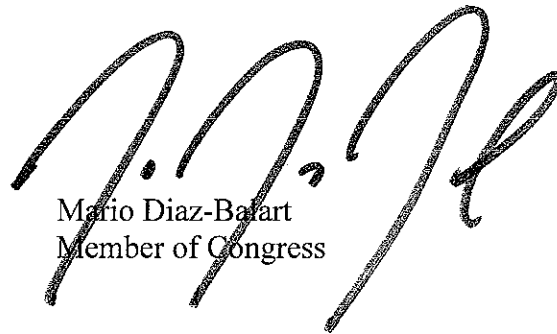
We have been in communication with Dr. David Krause with the Florida Department of Health on this issue, and he has expressed a strong desire to communicate with your agencies and share findings that he and his colleagues have gleaned from their extensive research on this drywall, which began prior to the EPA's and CDC's involvement in this issue. We fully appreciate the intense scientific research and evaluations required as part of this investigation, and we believe that sharing experiential knowledge may bring us to a faster resolution on all fronts. In that vein, we hope communication can be established between your agencies and the Florida Department of Health, as well as other state agencies that have been working on this issue.

Administrator Jackson and Director Besser, we believe it is essential that these tests be performed in an expedited matter so that the public can have a complete and accurate understanding of the risks this drywall may be posing to occupants of these homes. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Baart
Member of Congress