

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 22, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
H232 – The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As you may be aware, the citizens of Florida, Louisiana, Virginia, as well as 13 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.

Earlier this week, 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 recent hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance, 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.

It is believed that heat and humidity will exacerbate this problem in the coming months in Florida and elsewhere – making a bad problem even worse. 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 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.

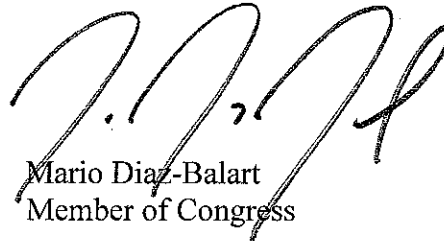
Speaker Pelosi, on behalf of our constituents and other concerned residents of many states, including Florida, impacted by the issue of contaminated Chinese drywall, we are requesting that you address this issue during your upcoming trip to China over the Memorial Day recess. We believe it is imperative that the Chinese government cooperate with the CPSC, the CDC and the EPA in their investigation of this silent crisis, as such cooperation stands to provide these agencies with the relevant information they will need to have a complete, timely 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 working with you further on this issue.

Sincerely,



Robert Wexler  
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress