

Date

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

Dear Chairman Tenenbaum:

I would like to congratulate you on your recent confirmation as Chairman of the Commission. I look forward to your leadership and vision for the Commission.

I am writing to ask for your assistance regarding the issue of Chinese manufactured drywall, which is of immediate concern to Floridians.

As you are aware, Florida and other states are experiencing the phenomenon of severe corrosion of copper and other metals in homes built using Chinese manufactured drywall. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency have been engaged with Florida's Operation Drywall Incident Management Team (IMT) to address this issue. However, the Florida Department of Health (DOH), our lead state agency on this issue, has experienced little to no collaboration from CPSC staff despite repeated requests for assistance.

In addition, it has been brought to my attention that CPSC staff has been performing investigations of Florida homes and taking samples for analysis without any notice to our state agencies. This practice of uncoordinated inspections in Florida continues even after repeated discussions between the DOH and CPSC staff. Indeed, during a recent sampling visit to a Florida home by CPSC staff, which was facilitated by a county health department, CPSC staff provided two hours' notice that the inspecting team would include a delegation of observers from China. While your staff's efforts are welcomed, the lack of consultation and communication is concerning.

To ensure we move forward in a more coordinated manner, I am requesting that the CPSC:

1. assign a staff member to work with Florida's Operation Drywall IMT and participate in its weekly conference calls;
2. direct CPSC Health Sciences to continue participating with the interagency technical working group and weekly CDC state/federal conference call;
3. direct CPSC Engineering Sciences to share its research plans and findings and to collaborate with the Florida Fire Marshall on their research;
4. direct CPSC management to provide the Operation Drywall IMT with details of its project timelines, laboratory and field research, sampling efforts and study designs;
5. commit to participate in the data sharing agreement currently under review by the DOH, the State of Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

6. direct CPSC management to coordinate their research efforts with those of DOH in order to minimize duplication of efforts, ensure the best possible research design and make the best use of our limited resources; and
7. direct CPSC staff to notify and coordinate with Operation Drywall IMT regarding all past, current, and future activities and inspections within the State of Florida.

I thank you for your personal attention to this matter. We need to move forward and provide accurate, science based information to Florida's residents about the potential health and safety hazards that Chinese drywall may pose.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

cc: Commissioner Nancy Nord
Commissioner Thomas Hill Moore