

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Financial Services
Washington, DC 20515-6050

May 23, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

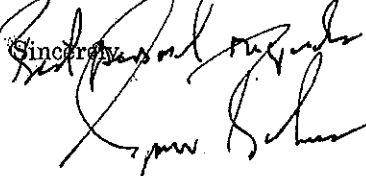
Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing you concerning the issue of Chinese Drywall, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Chinese Drywall has impacted over 200 of my constituents to date, and I have worked diligently with my staff on solutions for these families facing mortgage payments on top of rent costs during the remediation process for their impacted homes. I believe this issue has reached the point where it deserves the attention of the Committee of jurisdiction here in Washington.

On May 25, 2010, the Consumer Product Safety Commission publicly identified the drywall manufacturers – all of them domiciled in China – whose products were guilty of emitting high levels of hydrogen sulfide. Since that time, the impacted homeowners have pursued litigation as well as remediation efforts as they attempt to address the impacts of Chinese Drywall. Due to the health hazards posed by Chinese Drywall, including respiratory problems such as asthma attacks, chronic coughing and difficulty breathing, as well as chronic headaches and sinus issues, homeowners are unable to occupy or sell the homes in question. It is my hope that a thorough examination of this issue by your Committee will expedite a resolution for these homeowners and protect future buyers from a similar fate.

Because the building materials in question involve trade agreements and import/export standards, and because the Consumer Product Safety Commission, which falls under the jurisdiction of Energy and Commerce, has been intimately involved with the Chinese Drywall issue from its inception, I would like to request your attention to this matter. If you deem it appropriate, I suggest a hearing with the relevant regulators and stake holders to examine the appropriate role of the Federal government in any remediation efforts and steps going forward to ensure this situation does not arise again. I am happy to work with you to produce a result that is equitable and just for those impacted by this unfortunate circumstance.

I look forward to working with you on this and other issues in the 112th Congress.

Sincerely,


SPENCER BACHUS
Chairman