



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

July 28, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

I wrote you in April about the problems that many residents of Florida and a number of other states face because their homes were built with tainted drywall imported from China.

To date, cases have been reported in at least 21 states and the District of Columbia. Many of the homeowners report health and safety problems. And some even have moved out of their houses, and now are stuck paying their mortgage and the cost of rental property.

Your installation of new leadership at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency jump-started investigations into these cases – and I greatly appreciate your assistance in that area.

What urgently is needed now is White House mobilization and coordination of all federal resources that could help homeowners.

It is my understanding that the Department of Housing and Urban Development has homeowner assistance and associated community grant programs that could help homeowners. In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency may be able to provide relocation assistance to impacted homeowners.

Mr. President, I ask that you use your power to mobilize these resources. In addition, I urge you to create a “one-stop” federal Drywall Assistance Center that homeowners can use to receive information about the status of the investigations and available federal resources.

Thank you in advance for your continued assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Nelson".