DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta, GA 30333

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor of the State of Florida
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor Crist:

Thank you for your letter to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Administrator Ms. Lisa Jackson, the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) Acting Chairman Ms. Nancy Nord, and me requesting parallel state-federal efforts in response to emerging concerns associated with Chinese-manufactured drywall. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) is collaborating with the Florida Department of Health (FLDOH), CPSC, and EPA to determine any possible health implications from living in a home with China-manufactured drywall. CDC/ATSDR has used its extensive network of contacts with state health and environmental agencies to develop a weekly conference call among the involved federal and state agencies to help ensure that up-to-date and accurate information and approaches are rapidly shared, and to ensure coordination among the involved agencies and groups. In addition, CDC/ATSDR is providing technical input to EPA and CPSC's indoor and outdoor air sampling plans to ensure results can be interpreted for public health purposes.

CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is also providing industrial hygiene expertise to the coordinated federal response. NIOSH is preparing to conduct a health hazard evaluation and working with the FLDOH as well as a home builder to evaluate potential health hazards for persons involved in drywall removal.

CDC/ATSDR continues to expand its technical assistance to include other state health departments. We are working with states to create imported drywall fact sheets for the public. CDC/ATSDR is also developing a fact sheet for healthcare providers who may be evaluating patients living in homes with Chinese-manufactured drywall. This educational piece will be distributed to FLDOH and other state health departments and poison control centers, in addition to being available on the CDC/ATSDR website.

CDC/ATSDR recognizes the urgency of this issue and is committed to working with Florida and other affected states. Furthermore, we will continue to contribute to the overall federal response consistent with our expertise and mandate.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Besser

Richard E. Besser, M.D.
Acting Director, CDC, and
Acting Administrator, ATSDR