November 18, 2009

Dear Governor [Name]:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is leading a team of federal and state agencies in the investigation of reported health and safety issues in homes containing Chinese-made drywall. We have received at least one such report from consumers in 31 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The Interagency Task Force on Chinese Drywall, that includes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Agency for Toxic Disease Registry, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, has been working closely since early 2009 with many state departments of health and attorneys general to coordinate this investigation and share information.

Communications to state agencies from citizens reporting concerns with Chinese drywall are a vital source of information for understanding the national scope of this problem. While we have received tremendous cooperation and support from our state partners, we need to be certain we have as complete a record as possible of reported drywall concerns. As a complicating factor, we suspect consumers may be reaching out not only to state health officials and attorneys general but also to officials at other state agencies focused on consumer protection or even fire marshals.

We are asking for your help to gather a statewide list of homes where concerns with Chinese drywall have arisen based on reports received by the [state] government. A thorough assembly of individuals and addresses reporting Chinese drywall concerns is necessary to gauge the breadth of this issue and develop possible next steps to help impacted homeowners.

With regard to any concerns regarding privacy, including any data gathered as individually identifiable health information, CPSC will manage and protect all such information provided through this request as appropriate under relevant statutory and regulatory authorities. (Pursuant to our mission to protect the health and safety of the public by preventing product-related deaths, injuries, and illnesses, CPSC serves as a public health authority under 45 C.F.R. §164.501.)
Please contact Blake Rose, Lead Compliance Officer, Office of Compliance and Field Operations, at 301-504-7613 or brose@cpsc.gov, if you have any questions or concerns and otherwise to arrange the transfer of this important information. We would be grateful for your efforts in helping us to complete this project by December 14, 2009. Thank you for [state’s] continued support in investigating this important issue.

Very truly yours,

Inez M. Tenenbaum