



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

February 13, 2009

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I am writing to request that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in conjunction with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), consider new measures to ensure the safety of drywall and other consumer building products imported into the United States.

In recent months, there have been a series of reports from new homeowners in several South Florida counties complaining of sulfuric odors, sickness and corrosion in air conditioning and heating units. Subsequent investigations by the Florida Department of Health and several environmental consulting firms have traced the source of contamination to drywall that was imported from several Chinese companies, including the Knauf Plasterboard Tianjin Company.

It is my understanding that the CPSC currently has no consumer product safety standards regulating drywall or other gypsum-based consumer building products. Through this letter, I request that the EPA, in conjunction with the CPSC, investigate the potential toxicity of the drywall manufactured by the Knauf Plasterboard Tianjin Company, determine whether a recall or other remedial measures should be taken to remove the drywall from the stream of commerce, and assess whether new regulations are necessary to protect consumers purchasing imported drywall or other similar consumer building products.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Day of my staff at (202) 224-8749.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson