

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 13, 2011

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

In anticipation of the upcoming State Visit by Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, we would like to formally request that during this visit, you and your Administration continue to engage the Chinese Government on the issue of toxic Chinese drywall.

There are nearly 4000 cases in over 40 states of homeowners with toxic Chinese drywall in their homes, including many in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia, and our congressional districts specifically. This drywall has been tested by the Consumer Product Safety Commission and been found responsible for the off-gassing of hazardous chemicals into these homes. Americans living in these homes have experienced everything from cold and flu-like symptoms to migraine headaches, chronic nosebleeds, gastrointestinal problems, and debilitating auto-immune symptoms.

Along with impairing the health of homeowners and their families, toxic Chinese drywall is damaging their chances at the American dream. Most homeowners beset with toxic Chinese drywall have little or no remedy. Home insurers refuse to provide coverage for the drywall, citing a standard exclusion in insurance contracts for damages caused by faulty building materials. The Chinese State-owned company providing the drywall has sidestepped liability in the United States, even though they have been found liable in federal court. Many mortgage holders are refusing to cooperate with homeowners, despite requests to do so from federal mortgage guarantors like Fannie Mae and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Drywall off-gassed chemicals damage electronics, heating ventilation and air conditioning components, and anything else with exposed metal wiring. An average homeowner with toxic Chinese drywall has to pay a mortgage and property taxes on a home his or her family cannot inhabit, medical costs for sicknesses caused by the toxic Chinese drywall, rent for a dwelling his or her family can safely inhabit, and costs to remove the drywall and all contaminated house components, costs that the CFSC estimates will average \$100,000 per single family home.

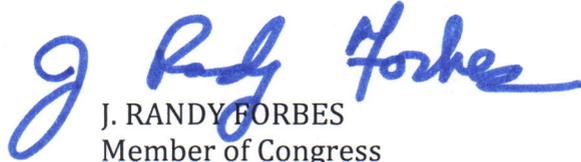
During the PRC State Visit, we hope that you and officials in your Administration compel the Chinese Government to recognize the responsibility they face when companies they own import toxic products. We understand that in the gamut of all the trade and commerce issues between our two countries, toxic Chinese drywall is small both in terms of dollars and people affected. But we truly believe that this is an instance where resolving

a small issue can have a profound impact. If we do nothing on this issue, it will reinforce the myth that the average American has no voice in Government, and support is reserved for moneyed special interests. If your Administration successfully negotiates a remedy for these homeowners, it will show all Americans that in fact the United States Government stands for and behind its citizens first and foremost. If your Administration needs any more information on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress



J. RANDY FORBES
Member of Congress



ROBERT J. WITTMAN
Member of Congress



SCOTT RIGELL
Member of Congress