



February 11, 2011

Honorable Bill Nelson  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-0904

Honorable Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1804

Via e-mail: [pete\\_mitchell@billnelson.senate.gov](mailto:pete_mitchell@billnelson.senate.gov)  
[senator@landrieu.senate.gov](mailto:senator@landrieu.senate.gov)

Dear Senator Nelson and Senator Landrieu:

On behalf of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), I am writing to offer you our assistance in addressing an issue that continues to impact a considerable number of individuals – the potential health effects of corrosive drywall (CDW).

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) is the premier association serving the needs of professionals involved in occupational and environmental health and safety practicing industrial hygiene in industry, government, labor, academic institutions, and independent organizations. The AIHA mission is to promote healthy and safe environments by advancing the science, principles, practice, and value of industrial and occupational hygiene. AIHA is not only committed to protecting and improving worker health, but the health and well-being of adults and children in our communities. One of AIHA's goals is to bring "good science" and the benefits of our workplace experience to the public policy process directed at worker health and safety.

AIHA is aware of your continued interest in the issue of CDW and we appreciate your past initiatives to promote an understanding and resolution of issues involving the importation of CDW from China.

If recent media reports are any indication, the issue does not seem to be "going away". In just the past couple of weeks we have seen reports from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) addressing this issue on several fronts, however; AIHA is concerned these reports leave several gaps.

AIHA recently completed a review of the science related to this topic along with a critique of current field practice. The AIHA White Paper on Corrosive Drywall (attached) addressed several important gaps in the science not covered in CPSC reports. These include, with specific white paper reference: health effects (15.2), emission dynamics (15.7), air quality monitoring


(15.11), exposure reduction (15.12), clearance verification (15.14), worker protection (15.15) and waste disposal (16.16).

In addition, AIHA has identified significant limitations with respect to CPSC Guidance to the public with respect to: assessment (15.10), use of x-ray fluorescence (15.9) and remediation (15.3). In section 16.0 AIHA presents a detailed list of recommendations for developing both the science and cost-effective protocols for assessment and remediation.

Thus far, the CPSC has failed to consult with outside experts on their evaluation of the CDW issue and their subsequent Guidance presented to the public. AIHA stands ready to assist the federal government in this area. Lacking input from the industrial hygiene, building science, engineering and public health organizations, the federal response thus far has failed to answer several critical questions while proposing incomplete solutions. We urge the federal government to expand its epidemiological and medical research on the potential health effects of CDW.

Again, thank you for your past efforts to address this issue and your continued interest in the health of individuals who may be impacted by CDW. Please contact AIHA if it would be helpful for some of our members working in this field to meet with your staff or the CPSC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael T. Brandt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "B".

Michael T. Brandt, MPH, DrPH, CIH, PMP  
AIHA President