



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

June 24, 2010

BILL NELSON

FLORIDA

Ana M. Viamonte-Ros, M.D.
Secretary and Surgeon General
Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin # B00
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1728

Dear Dr. Viamonte Ros:

I wanted to let you know about some welcome and long-awaited news for Floridians living with problems caused by defective drywall in their homes.

Two of the nation's largest mortgage holders--Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—said they'll direct mortgage servicers to provide up to six months' delay on affected homeowners' loan payments with Fannie and up to 12 months with Freddie. It will be done on a case-by-case basis and will require a property inspection to confirm the drywall problem.

I made a request for Fannie and Freddie to do this in April. In fact, I've been fighting for relief for these homeowners for over a year, since learning that some of their homes have become uninhabitable because of the sulfuric gas emitted from the tainted wallboard.

There have been around 3,400 reported cases of toxic drywall in the U.S., with nearly 2,000 of these cases coming from Florida. A lot of the drywall was brought into Florida to repair homes after hurricanes hit the state hard in 2004 and 2005; most instances in Palm Beach County seem to have been in Boynton Beach and Delray.

You can learn whether your loan is owned or guaranteed by Fannie or Freddie by typing your address into these special websites:

- <http://www.fanniemae.com/loanlookup/>
- <https://ww3.freddie.mac.com/corporate/>

Even if Fannie or Freddie doesn't hold your mortgage, I encourage you to contact your lender as every day more and more institutions are agreeing to grant similar forbearance. And please share the news with friends and neighbors—anyone who has been struggling with this problem needs to know that help is available.

Sincerely,

Received

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