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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

BETTINA POIRIER, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
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May 27, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer,

We respectfully request that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) conduct an oversight hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) implementation of the "Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule."

We agree that it is vitally important to protect children and pregnant women from exposure to lead-based paint; unfortunately the implementation has been inconsistent and confusing. Accordingly, the benefits of this rule have not been fully realized. EPA is also proposing substantial changes to the rule and it is important that we understand these changes and their effects.

There is significant bipartisan support on the EPW Committee and in the Senate to address problems associated with the rule's implementation. Our colleagues have clearly expressed their concerns about EPA's handling of the rule. Last year the Senate overwhelmingly approved the Collins Amendment to H.R. 4899, which resulted in EPA extending the compliance deadline for taking lead safe training courses. The issue was also brought up in our March 30, 2011 committee hearing on GSA oversight. Additionally, many members have sent letters to EPA and weighed in with the Administrator regarding the changes EPA has proposed to make to the rule.

Finally, given severe April tornadoes and the current flooding along the Mississippi River, there will be thousands of homes requiring extensive renovation and it is vital that we understand how these EPA rules will affect families and communities trying to rebuild.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure this hearing is scheduled as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Sam McElroy

Tim Nittler

Mike Crespo

John Barrasso

Mike Johnson

John Bozeman

Laura Alexander

Jeff Sessions