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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

BETTINA POIRIER, STAFF DIRECTOR
RUTH VAN MARK, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Dear Colleague,

As you may be aware, the Environmental Protection Agency's "Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting" rule went into effect on April 22, 2010. The rule is designed to help reduce lead exposure to pregnant women and children from dust caused by renovations.

Renovations in homes built before 1978 and that disturb more than six square feet must be supervised by a certified renovator and conducted by a certified renovation firm. In order to become certified, contractors must submit an application – with a fee – to EPA, and complete a training course for instruction on lead-safe work practices.

EPA is administering the program in most states; Wisconsin, Iowa, North Carolina, Mississippi, Kansas, Rhode Island and Utah are authorized to administer their own RRP programs in lieu of the federal program.

As of April 22, 2010, EPA reports that it has accredited only 204 training providers nationwide, which falls far short of what is sufficient to meet high demand for such providers.

There is considerable confusion among constituents – including homeowners, landlords, renovators, and contractors – about the requirements of this rule. Many contractors and homeowners are contacting congressional offices for more information. To help people become more informed, I want to make you aware of the following websites:

The Federal Register notice for the rule can be found here:
<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-TOX/2008/April/Day-22/t8141.htm>.

General information regarding the rule can be found on EPA's website here:
<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/lead/pubs/renovation.htm>

Information about all EPA's lead programs can be found here:
<http://www.epa.gov/lead/>

Pollution Prevention and Toxics also has a number of Frequently Asked Questions with answers here:
http://toxics.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/toxics.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php?p_sid=IJM5bu-j

Another great resource for constituents that has information is:
leadfreekids.org

I remain deeply concerned that, without quick access to accurate information and training, renovators will be unable to properly do their jobs and pregnant women and children will not receive the health benefits of this rule. As the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, I will exercise my oversight responsibilities to help manage the difficult transition communities will face in meeting the requirements of this rule.

I hope this information helps your constituents understand the ramifications of this important issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Minority Office of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (202) 224-6176, or EPA's Office of Congressional Affairs (202) 564- 5200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James M. Inhofe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and "M".

Senator James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works