

SENATOR'S NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: SENATOR QUINN

PHONE: 504.219.4640

SEN. QUINN GAINS SUPPORT FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR CHINESE DRYWALL VICTIMS

FEDERAL & STATE AUTHORITIES AGREE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ASSISTANCE PLAN

After a series of recent meetings in Washington, D.C. on the Chinese drywall issue, District 6 State Senator Julie Quinn (R-Metairie) has taken the first step and called for action. During her meetings, Quinn requested temporary housing assistance for those families living in homes with defective drywall.

"I am pleased that both Janet Woodka, the Federal Coordinator for the Office of Gulf Coast Rebuilding, and Louisiana Recovery Authority Executive Director Paul Rainwater agree that providing temporary housing for homeowners with Chinese drywall is a good idea. Both agree to move forward with developing a plan," Sen. Quinn Said. "While temporary housing does not *solve* the Chinese drywall problem, it provides residents peace of mind in that they no longer have to make the painful choice of living in a toxic home or rent another place and have their home foreclosed upon in the meantime. Families should not have to suffer the struggle of financial devastation, illnesses and emotional distress because unregulated toxic foreign imports were allowed into the country, with no aide from our government in this respect.

Recently, Senator Quinn spoke with one elderly Jefferson Parish couple. The husband is on disability and the wife is continuously ill due to the toxic off-gasing of the sheetrock. Although they tried to build a small temporary shed with a bathroom in it so that the couple could live there until the home could be remediated, Jefferson Parish refused their request. The couple was forced to move elsewhere and rent, depleting their financial resources and their home is now facing foreclosure. Senator Quinn further explained "another man advised me he was considering suicide because his home was facing foreclosure after he had to move out and find temporary housing because of illnesses caused by the Chinese drywall, and he was desperate to find a way for his wife and new baby to keep the family home."

Quinn notes that lawmakers on the federal level are very aware of the seriousness of the Chinese drywall problem across the Gulf Coast. She is continuing to work with the Louisiana delegation and others from across the country to find a solution to the problem.

During a recent three-day trip to the nation's capital, Quinn met with Louisiana Senators Mary Landrieu and David Vitter as well as Rhode Island Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions, Illinois Senator Dick Durbin and Florida Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz. She also attended sessions with Federal Trade Commission and Consumer Product Safety Commission experts and visited with legal experts specializing in international trade issues.

Senator Quinn vows to continue to fight for homeowners with respect to the Chinese Drywall crisis. She is co-hosting two additional town hall meetings soon (Oct. 15th - Northshore Harbor Center, Slidell, LA, and Oct 22nd in St. Bernard).

For additional information about the Chinese drywall issue, go to Sen. Quinn's web page at <http://senate.legis.state.la.us/Quinn/> .

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