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November 2, 2016

The Honorable Julián Castro
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

RE: Urgent action needed from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on toxic Chinese drywall in Tampa Bay area

Dear Secretary Castro:

Enclosed you will find a recent article published in *The Tampa Bay Times* that displays the tremendously negative impact Chinese drywall has had on homeowners in the Tampa Bay region and around the country. As I have expressed previously, some of my most vulnerable neighbors continue to see their home values drop significantly, which directly impacts their financial health.

The installation of toxic Chinese drywall has escalated the health and financial woes of my neighbors. As the article lays out, many of these homeowners owe far more than their homes are currently worth and some have even made the hard and financially damaging decision to abandon their homes. These individuals were incentivized by local and federal initiatives to unknowingly purchase toxic assets that ruined credit, destroyed housing value and decimated financial stability.

According to the article, the homes were partially funded through the federal Hope VI grant. It is incumbent on the U.S. Department Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to find a practical solution that protects the most vulnerable in my community. I am asking that your agency visit the Tampa Bay area immediately and determine how HUD can bring about common sense solutions to the toxic Chinese drywall issue that continues to plague my neighbors throughout Tampa Bay.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me or my Senior Legislative Assistant, Kevin Karpay at 202-225-3376.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Castor".

Kathy Castor
United States Representative
Florida - District 14