



Florida House of Representatives
Democratic Office

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**DEMOCRATIC LEADER FRANKLIN SANDS’
STATEMENT CONCERNING DEFECTIVE DRYWALL**

TALLAHASSEE --- Florida House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands (D-Weston) issued the following statement concerning new federal investigative reports concerning defective drywall found in homes in Florida:

“I offer my strong support for urgent state and federal action to assist property owners devastated by defective drywall in their homes and businesses.

“In the most significant investigation of its kind, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced today that it has found a possible link between problem drywall, hydrogen sulfide gas levels in homes with that drywall, and corrosion in those homes.

“Defective drywall, including product that has been imported from China, has led to catastrophe for many residents in Florida. These include homeowners in Sunrise Lakes Phase III and other parts of Florida House District 98 that I represent. Some of these residents are experiencing problems with drywall used in remediation after Hurricane Wilma in 2005. It is heartbreaking to think what has happened to these homeowners, many of whom are retirees on fixed incomes.

“I am terribly saddened that many families throughout the state, due to no fault of their own, are being forced from their homes while others are seeing the value of their homes and businesses collapse as a result of this drywall crisis.

“The current situation is unacceptable and must be urgently remedied. The catastrophe involves builders and contractors unwilling or unable to remediate the damage. Homeowners’ insurance companies are denying coverage or, in some cases, dropping policies after people report the existence of defective drywall. Additionally, foreign manufacturers are apparently refusing responsibility and avoiding the court system. And to date, no federal program has been established to substantially help these homeowners.

“Given the magnitude of the drywall crisis, I encourage state and federal health officials to continue investigations into the causes of drywall deterioration. I also urge the agencies involved to continue their coordination with the Consumer Product Safety Commission so that the science behind this issue is better understood.

“Furthermore, the Florida Legislature should consider taking urgent action in the next legislative session to coordinate a response for residents afflicted by the drywall crisis. Floridians deserve a uniform and rapid response and they deserve accurate answers to their question about this drywall disaster.”

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