

Window & Door Dealers Alliance



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June 28, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I have heard you say on many occasions that you make a point of reading ten letters from constituents every night. I am writing you today in hopes that this will be one of them.

I'm appealing to you, on behalf of America's window and door dealers, to look closely at our industry's collective and unequivocal opposition to onerous new requirements proposed by the EPA. Details can be found in our attached cover letter, along with the letters of solidarity from roughly 200 individual dealers from around the country.

I appreciate that this is not the type of issue that is typically elevated to your attention; but because of the proposal's deleterious effects on thousands of jobs in an important domestic service industry, I am hoping you'll take a moment to consider our appeal.

The Window & Door Dealer Alliance (WDDA) recently surveyed our industry to gauge the impact of EPA's new lead paint rules (which went into effect on April 22) and to seek input on EPA's latest proposal. Respondents have provided a wealth of feedback – overwhelmingly adverse – about the new rules, ranging from substantial increases in both hard and soft costs on each job (over and above EPA's own estimate of a \$250 incremental increase), to anecdotal accounts of lost business and other serious repercussions from the rule.

As you can see, our comments to EPA were accompanied by nearly 200 letters of concern from window and door dealers representing virtually every state in the Union. The bottom line is clear: The broad application and lack of flexibility associated with EPA's lead paint rules, while well-intended, are generating unintended consequences that are costing jobs, harming our industry and, by extension, holding back our nation's economic recovery.

This is a serious issue, and I ask that you and your Administration treat it as such.

We keep you and Michelle in our prayers as you lead our country out of some tough days. From a fellow transplanted Chicagoan, here's to working together to make the jobs picture a bit brighter for the country's independent window and door dealers. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Walker
Vice President, Window & Door Dealers Alliance

P.S. I'd be happy to discuss this issue with you in person if you'd invite me to one of your pickup basketball games. Just say the word, and I'll bring my A game. I've seen John Rogers play and...forgive the boast...I know I can hold my own!