

LEAD-BASED PAINT LETTER TO SEND TO CONGRESS

Dear :

As you know the Department of Housing and Urban Development has promulgated regulations regarding abatement of lead-based paint in housing assisted with federal funds. The regulations are set to take effect on September 15, 2000. By this letter I am asking that you intercede and direct HUD to delay implementation of the regulations for the following reasons.

First, there is no agreement on the cost of controlling or abating lead-based paint in federally assisted housing. Using a cost benefit analysis, HUD estimates the incremental cost to be \$50 million annually, while other cost estimates put the full cost of abatement at an amount approaching \$500 million annually. Before this regulation is implemented, Congress, HUD, and Community Development Block Grant and HOME grantees need to agree on the cost and sufficient funds need to be appropriated by Congress for this purpose.

Second, there is a lack of certified lead abatement contractors in many states, which will result in delays in compliance with the regulations. This will mean that communities in such states will not be able to comply and they will not be able to draw down their CDBG and HOME funds in a timely fashion.

Third, the regulation will have an adverse affect on the elderly who under the regulations must agreed to abatement or control of lead-based paint, and possible relocation, if their homes are to be rehabilitated even if there are no children under six residing in the home. There should be an exemption for such properties in the regulations.

Let me say that the (City or County) supports abating lead paint and protecting vulnerable children. But until the full cost is known and sufficient funds appropriated the regulation should not be implemented.

Thank you for your efforts to delay implementation of this regulation.

Sincerely,