

Dear

In the year 2008, record flooding occurred in the state of Iowa. To assist with their relief and rebuild efforts, we traveled to the waterlogged state as volunteers. While we assisted with dry walling to exterior siding, we also learned of a legislative road block.

Iowa received federal dollars to help with the rebuild efforts in addition to FEMA. These dollars are administered by the name Jumpstart. This funding relates to lead based paint and the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) requirements tied along with that funding. Essentially, volunteers are not allowed to work in a federally funded project once the funding kicks in. This cost the tax payers hundreds of thousands of dollars that volunteer labor could have provided.

With the number of volunteers that came and are still coming to Iowa, we have come to a real roadblock. Several homeowners were not assisted in a caring timeframe due to the needed certified workers. Any project between \$5000 and \$24,999 must comply with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) lead safe housing rule, which requires a visual risk assessment to identify any lead hazards (such as chipping and peeling paint) and remediation (which may be simply paint stabilization) according to lead safe work practices. The rules and regulations are written by the CDBG writers.

We know chances are high that our state will one day be affected by a natural disaster. When this happens, our hope is to be able to return residents to their homes as quickly as possible. To do that, we need to change the law requiring CDBG dollars used for disaster recovery.

This change will not help the damage left behind by the Iowa Floods of 2008. However, it could greatly help our wonderful state in the future. Let us be pro-active.

Sincerely,

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[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

To find your local representative's information go to this website:

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>