

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

**HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

RICHMOND

**G. GLENN ODER**

POST OFFICE BOX 6161  
NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA 23606

NINETY-FOURTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
TRANSPORTATION (VICE-CHAIRMAN)  
GENERAL LAWS  
COUNTIES, CITIES, AND TOWNS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 20, 2011

Contact: Jesica Turner  
804.698.1094

**Delegate Oder Continues to Fight for Victims of Chinese Drywall**

**Richmond, VA** - In a continuing effort to find relief for the victims of Chinese drywall, Delegate G. Glenn Oder (R-Newport News) introduced legislation in the Virginia General Assembly to protect innocent people from purchasing or leasing a home with Chinese drywall. House Bill 1610 requires real estate agents engaged by sellers and buyers, and landlords who have actual knowledge of defective Chinese drywall in a dwelling unit, to disclose that information to the prospective tenant or buyer. The legislation further states that if an existing tenant is not provided disclosure within 60 days of discovery of defective drywall he may terminate the lease.

"Throughout the course of this year, I have learned of new victims of Chinese Drywall who have bought homes at reduced prices or entered into rental agreements. These victims were never told that the homes contained toxic drywall," said Delegate Oder. "We have enough knowledge of the dangers associated with toxic drywall that if a seller or real estate agent is aware of the presence of this product in the home, it must be disclosed. We should not be having new victims associated with this product."

HB 1610 also provides that if the presence of toxic drywall is confirmed by a building official, the Commissioner of the Revenue or other assessing official may reassess the property accordingly. The bill goes on to provide that local governments may also place the property in a rehabilitation district for purposes of granting the owner a partial real estate tax exemption.

"Victims of toxic Chinese Drywall can no longer live in their homes or take their tainted belongings with them," Delegate Oder explained. "They need real relief and one way is to provide options for localities to reduce their real estate taxes."

Delegate Oder worked on this bill throughout the year and received a unanimous recommendation from the Virginia Housing Commission.

Glenn Oder was first elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2002. He represents the 94<sup>th</sup> House District, which includes part of Newport News. For more information regarding Delegate Oder please visit his website – [www.glennode.com](http://www.glennode.com).

###