

## State of Connecticut CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATE CAPITOL HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

April 15, 2019

Ned Lamont Governor State of Connecticut 210 Capitol Ave Hartford, Connecticut 06106

William Tong Attorney General State of Connecticut 55 Elm Street Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Andrew N. Mais Commissioner Insurance Department 153 Market Street 7th Floor Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Dear Governor Lamont, Attorney General Tong and Commissioner Mais:

We are writing to request an investigation into possible Connecticut Unfair Insurance Practices Act (CUIPA) violations by insurance companies as it pertains to crumbling foundations.

On March 8, 2019, the Planning and Development Committee and the Insurance and Real Estate Committee held a public hearing. This public hearing covered proposed legislation concerning the crumbling foundation issue. Of particular note was testimony concerning alleged changes in homeowners' insurance policy language beginning in the early 2000s which may have affected coverage for those with crumbling foundations.

On July 7, 2016, a letter authored by then Attorney General George Jepsen made reference to the Insurance Department having yet to have initiated a CUIPA investigation or other subpoenas to gather information concerning insurers' coverage obligations, coverage denial conduct, or communications to their policy holders relating to crumbling foundation coverage. I have included this letter and you will find reference to the CUIPA discussion on page 3. To the best of our knowledge, no substantial action was taken as a result of this letter, but

with the dawn of a new administration, we are asking for the new Insurance Commissioner and new Attorney General to take a fresh look at this issue which impacts 42 cities and towns in Connecticut, which make up roughly one-quarter of our state's municipalities.

To make matters worse for the victims with crumbling concrete foundations, it recently came to light that there are documented cases of insurance providers canceling homeowners' policies due to cracking foundations caused by pyrrhotite. While we appreciate the Insurance Department's swift actions in remedying these matters, we will remind you that this is in direct violation of the agency directive issued by former Insurance Commissioner Katherine Wade in 2016.

The taxpayers and homeowner insurance policy holders of Connecticut are currently footing the bill for this catastrophe. The time has come for a CUIPA investigation. Transparency and accountability for all stakeholders in this issue is critical for our communities. We respectfully request that an immediate CUIPA investigation be initiated into all aspects of the crumbling foundation issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rep. Michael Winkler 56<sup>th</sup> District

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Sen. Dan Champagne 35<sup>th</sup> District

Rep. Robin Green 55<sup>th</sup> District

Rep. Tami Zawistowski 61<sup>st</sup> District

Rep. Pat Wilson Pheanious 53<sup>rd</sup> District

Rep. Jason Rojas 9<sup>th</sup> District

Rep. Christopher Davis 57<sup>th</sup> District

Rep. Kenneth Gucker 138<sup>th</sup> District

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Rep. Irene Haines 34<sup>th</sup> District

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Rep. Linda Orange 48<sup>th</sup> District



Rep. Jeff Currey 11<sup>th</sup> District

Rep. Kurt Vail 52<sup>nd</sup> District

Rep. Jason Doucette 13<sup>th</sup> District

Sen Steve Cassano 4<sup>th</sup> District

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Rep. Geoff Luxenberg 12<sup>th</sup> District

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Rep. Tim Ackert 8<sup>th</sup> District

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Rep. Gregory Haddad 54<sup>th</sup> District

Rep. Pat Boyd 50<sup>th</sup> District