

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 21, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We write to announce our intent to hold a forum on **Thursday, November 18, 2010 from 1:30 pm until 5:00 pm** about the rapidly growing bed bug population that is plaguing much of the country. Particularly, the forum will explore the appropriate federal role in helping to more effectively respond to and manage this serious problem and whether it is necessary for Congress to intervene.

You have likely seen or read some of the countless recent news accounts regarding the resurgence of bed bugs in the United States. This blood sucking pest is now widespread and its populations are deeply established in many parts of the country. Bed bugs don't discriminate: They are as likely to infest roadside motels as five-star hotels.

Moreover, some areas have bed bug strains that are resistant to and cannot be controlled by insecticides presently on the market. Since conventional insecticides may not kill bed bugs, multiple treatments are often necessary. This increases the cost and makes treatment difficult to afford for fixed or lower income populations. Other treatment methods such as heat or fumigation are very effective; however, they may not be affordable or feasible in every circumstance.

The many issues related to controlling bed bugs are extremely significant, and must be more forcefully addressed by federal agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Trade Commission, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Sleeplessness, emotional trauma, allergic reactions, and open scabs and wounds are just a few of the public health issues involved with the bed bug resurgence.

Until now the federal response to the bed bug resurgence has not been adequate. The problem not only jeopardizes public health and safety but also threatens commerce by creating disincentives to travel and engage in daily activities like riding public transportation, shopping, or going to the movies. To underscore that point, according to a recent Rasmussen poll, nine percent of Americans, or about 28 million people, said they or someone they know has had a recent problem with bed bugs. Twenty percent of Americans have changed plans to go to some public places because they worry about bringing bed bugs home.

Lastly, there is inherent danger in some of the methods being utilized to manage bed bugs. In the last month alone, residents in Lexington, Kentucky and Phoenix, Arizona, desperate to rid their homes and possessions of bed bugs nearly burned their homes down as they tried to eliminate the pests. There have also been recent reports in New Jersey, Massachusetts and Ohio of unlicensed, unqualified persons using pesticide illegally to control bed bugs.

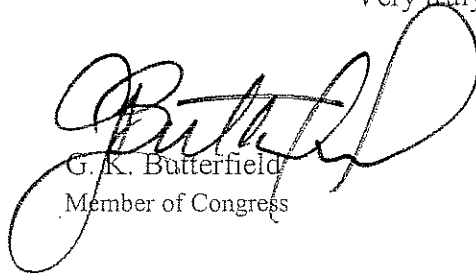
As illustrated above, the rebounding bed bug population is a national problem that is adversely impacting the lives of countless Americans. The issue has some serious public policy implications, and we plan to use the upcoming forum to raise just a few of the most pertinent issues and relevant questions, including:

- Determining if federal agencies have grant programs in place to assist local governments, other political subdivisions, and local housing authorities in funding activities to manage and prevent bed bug infestations and, if not, pushing for the creation of such programs.
- Is it necessary to create economic incentives such as research and development and other tax credits for companies to develop and bring to market safe, effective and affordable bed bug management tools?
- Identifying the hurdles to bringing new, more effective and affordable bed bug management products to the market.
- What is the EPA doing to bring additional and affordable bed bug control products to the market, and what role, if any, can Congress play, in expediting the process?
- Are some of the minimum risks or 25(b) pesticides that claim to control bed bugs effective, and are they safe for use? Are additional measures needed to protect consumers and ensure that bed bug products on or introduced to the market work effectively and pose no risk to users and bystanders?

- What actions is the EPA undertaking to screen currently available insecticides to determine whether they may have a role in combating the bed bug crisis?
- Should federal agencies be engaging in more basic and applied research?
- What policies do HUD or local housing authorities have in place to prevent and manage bed bugs? What are the responsibilities of the landlord and the tenant when dealing with bed bug infestations and is the current assignment of responsibilities fair to the tenant and landlord?
- Are universities that receive federal funds required to develop and implement bed bug action plans and, if not, is such a requirement worth considering?

We appreciate your time and attention toward this vitally important matter and will keep you apprised of the planning for this event.

Very truly yours,



G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



Don Young  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 21, 2010

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Minority Leader Boehner:

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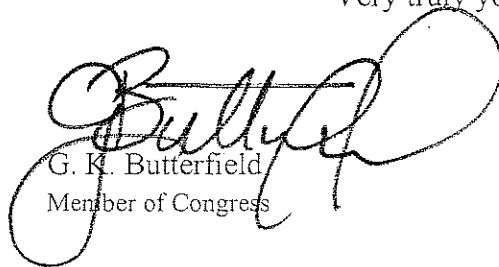
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