



PRESS RELEASE

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Silent Tsunami Hits VI Disguised as Pressure Treated Lumber!

April 12, 2017, St. John, US Virgin Islands: Pressure Treated Structural Lumber Coalition, LLC (PTSLC) has been created to provide a platform for those affected by the ongoing financial, emotional, physical and environmental consequences of deficient “Pressure Treated Wood Products”, to focus national attention on the far-reaching magnitude of damage surrounding this issue and to foster a unified voice for resolution.

Legal action, taken by the victims of deceptive sales of “Pressure Treated Wood Products” to seek reasonable and equitable resolutions for the ongoing damage and loss of value in their properties, has been denied by the courts based on a statute of limitations ruling with further legal recourse suppressed by the threat of defense fee shifting leaving the PTSLC, LLC as the only alternative to gain relief, create awareness and change.

Michael Lucht, the Executive Director of PTSLC states, “The court’s application of a 2-year statute of limitations denied claims made by victims of defective structural wood materials, whose very name “Pressure Treated” as it is referenced implies longevity and insect resistance for a minimum of 30 – 50 years to the average consumer. Those consumers and retailers affected by this issue did not recognize the magnitude of the problem until fungal decay, wood rot and termite infestation began to be identified 4 – 6 years after installation, which began in 2004. Now, the former defendants in this case have become plaintiffs attempting to collect hundreds of thousands of dollars of defense fees from an individual victim who spearheaded the legal action and who also must still incur repair cost for the damages. Further, what first revealed itself in the USVI, because of the severe climatic conditions, has begun to be recognized by uninformed consumers throughout the country.”

The Coalition provides a communication platform for the public impact of deficient pressure treated wood. We represent all those who have been negatively impacted by this issue, and especially those who have experienced a financial loss, due to premature failure of structural wood materials caused by fungal decay, wood rot and termite infestation.



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The PTSLC will focus on:

1. Engaging the Federal Trade Commission in regulating the use of the term “pressure treated wood” with, improved labeling and warranties.
2. Educating consumers regarding their past perceptions and expectations of pressure treated wood products, as it applies to today’s products sold as pressure treated wood.
3. Reversing the current regulation restricting residential use of CCA lumber for structural applications, so it will again be available to consumers where replacement would require removal of other building materials.
4. Creating national attention of the magnitude of this issue to gain an extension of the precedent setting benefits provided to Chinese drywall victims, by the IRS and HUD, to the USVI deficient pressure treated lumber victims.

Our goal is to present this as an issue that impacts all of us, industry and consumer alike, on a national level. We are an inclusive platform to unify and strengthen the voice of all victims as a proactive step toward preservation of a lifestyle. The coalition intends to gain the attention of HUD, the IRS and the FTC to bring relief to those affected and gain regulation of the definition of Pressure Treated Wood, creating an industry standard of compliance and enforcement in accordance with consumer’s historical understanding of the public domain use of this terminology so an incident like what’s happening in USVI cannot re-occur without legal recourse.



Screwdriver pushed through a dry rotting interior structural roof rafter beam.



Railing replaced in 2011 already rotting while stairs from 1983 still sound.



Termite damage difficult to recognize from the inside out



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Ideally, the PTSLC initiative will generate an overwhelming awareness of this issue and lead to a solution for the USVI and other impacted areas that will:

1. Communicate the facts of this issue to local government officials to bring their attention to the magnitude of the problem, so they will recognize this economic silent tsunami that first affected unknowing local USVI families and is now being recognized with a disproportionate number of stateside failures.
2. Improve the relations between manufacturers, retailers and consumers (because we address the issue not as a finger pointing event, but as vehicle of change where everyone has clearly identified the problem and the need be proactive in being part of the solution).
3. Gain federal governmental support of a resolution to address this disaster, in a manner paralleling the precedent set by the 2008 Chinese drywall issue, which worsens daily and is sitting like a powder keg that will be fully recognized when VI homes start losing their roofs or buildings begin collapsing resulting in personal injuries and/or death.
4. Promote tourism, through increased interest in the USVI as a vacation destination, by being on the leading edge of generating national awareness of this far-reaching problem while gaining positive nationwide attention to the rich West Indian culture and the social consciousness of a unified community that can generate positive results through the national print and electronic news media bringing greater attention to a diverse National Park region.
5. Inspire legislation that would prevent this incident from re-occurring.

The coalition will work to break down barriers and create a unified platform to identify and personalize the pain this issue has created. Initially, this is targeted at the USVI consumers to inspire a common voice that will engage the manufacturers, retailers and governmental bodies alike to join forces for an effective solution.

About Pressure Treated Structural Lumber Coalition, LLC: PTSLC empowers everyone affected by the banning of CCA lumber in residential structural applications to generate a movement for change in the pressure treated wood products industry. This will ultimately result in reduced de-forestation and landfilling, improved safety, reduced chemical use and re-introduce a structural lumber supply chain that will re-instill consumer confidence in the product. For more please visit: www.ptslc.org or email us at dklumber@ptslc.org.