

**Hannah Demmerle
Father and Homeowner: Garrett Demmerle
61 Westford Ave.
Stafford Springs, CT 06076
January 4, 2016**

To the Public Hearing Committee:

My name is Hannah Demmerle and I am writing this testimonial in behalf of my aging father. We recently tried to sell our home three years after my mother passed away from a catastrophic, illness: an emotionally and financially devastating four-year battle with cancer. Since her passing, my father is trying to downsize and free up some of his assets (the home) in order to support his retirement.

Two weeks ago, after no success in selling our home, the realtor did some research and realized that the basement walls were built with defective cement. There is evidence of spider cracking on the foundation, a serious problem. After doing our own research, we have learned that the the cement problem is large-scale, affecting many homes in eastern CT. The concrete and septic supplier J.J. Mottes poured concrete in the 80s and 90s that contained a mineral called pyrrhotite which causes wall failure and cracking, a problem which can take 10 to 15 years to emerge. We recently had structural engineer Bill Neal confirm our home has this defective cement.

My father is left with a home that is essentially unsellable and therefore is much less valuable to him. The foundation will continue to crack. We have been warned to expect a very difficult time from insurance carriers. We have obtained the services of Brenda Draghi, who has been wonderful throughout this stressful time. We cannot, however, afford long, drawn out litigation fees.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Hannah Demmerle.
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