

Bed Bug Task Force Meeting
June 8, 2011
Judith Roettig
Chicagoland Apartment Association Statement

I would like the following statement be incorporated into the minutes

The rental housing industry like the pest management industry has been actively involved in the education and dissemination of well researched information to our constituents and members since 2007 if not before. CAA and the National Apartment Association have offered regular classroom and online education about the control and management of bed bugs. But more is needed to educate the public on the issue

CAA and other industry associations including MTO brought the Bed Bug issue to the attention of Senator Durkin and Representative Steans resulting in the Public Act 096-1330. This was done for many reasons; the most important being the need for public education and to raise public awareness. I have shared many resources used by the rental housing community including material from other State Task Forces, university research and industry best practices. My initial testimony at our first meeting outlined the rental housing position.

I am disappointed in the tone of the current draft report (pages 2-3) and the interpretation of 4/12/11 minutes which once again stereotypically pits landlords and tenants against each other when collaboration is essential. Bed Bugs, time and financial consequences are the problem. Other Task Force reports might be reviewed as an example. I will make additional comments as we go through the document.

I'm requesting a couple of things;

1. I've assumed that the "report" distributed is a draft and that other topics and recommendations will be covered in the final report as outlined in the Act 096-1330? I think an outline of what will included would be useful step including but not limited to;
 - a. Public awareness education, educational material and related resources and research
2. I request that legislative and or research references be noted in the report for statements and recommendations given
3. That final recommendations be more balanced with responsibility and accountability among stakeholders, property owners, tenants and pest management control companies
4. Is or can meeting announcements, dates, minutes etc be on IDPH's website? If it's there I can't find it? This is a public dialogue governed by the Public Meetings Act and it seems this information should be easily accessible by the public. .

Thank You