



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Gloria Linnertz

Cancer Survivors Against Radon (CanSAR)

618-830-4660

Gloria@CanSAR.org

CanSAR board member joins senior officials from multiple federal agencies to announce new policy regarding radon testing and mitigation in FHA-insured multifamily mortgages

Washington D.C., February 4, 2013 – CanSAR board member Marlene MacEwan joined Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Shaun Donovan, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson, Surgeon General Regina Benjamin, M.D., Deputy Secretary of Energy (DOE) Daniel Poneman and White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chair Nancy Sutley to announce a new HUD policy for radon testing and mitigation in FHA-insured multifamily mortgages. The announcement was made by Secretary Donovan during an open press event held at the National Building Museum in Washington D.C. for the unveiling of ***Advancing Healthy Housing – A Strategy for Action***. The event will be available on video beginning at 2PM EST on HUD’s website: www.hud.gov/healthyhomes.

MacEwan, speaking on behalf of CanSAR, was introduced by Administrator Jackson. “With this policy, HUD has taken proactive steps in helping to prevent radon-induced lung cancer,” said MacEwan. “As someone who has lived through the heartache of losing a loved one to radon, I am thankful for the work being done by HUD, EPA and other federal and state agencies. We have much more work to do, but this policy represents a positive step forward.”

MacEwan also delivered a personal message from CanSAR Founder and President, Liz Hoffman. “Liz Hoffman, our founder, is unable to be here today because she is currently undergoing another round of chemo,” said MacEwan. “In Liz’ words: *As someone who is reminded each day of the importance of radon risk reduction, I don’t want others to experience the emotional and financial burdens I’ve gone through. To date, the cost of my treatment has exceeded \$800 thousand dollars, and those that I love continue to bear witness to my battle with this horrible disease. Every radon-induced lung cancer survivor, or the family of those who have lost their battle, has a story to share with you. Unfortunately, our stories are too similar. A fresh focus on addressing the radon problem in our country must begin with today’s announcement. More than 21,000 lives lost each year to this preventable disease is not acceptable.*”

Radon is a naturally-occurring, radioactive gas that is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Exposure to radon is responsible for more than 21,000 annual deaths in the United States. Approximately 1 in 15 U.S. buildings contain radon gas in toxic concentrations above the EPA action level of 4.0 pCi/L, including more than 70,000 classrooms. An estimated 100,000 residential housing units each year will fall under the new HUD policy requiring radon testing and mitigation.

About CanSAR™

CanSAR is an organization dedicated to preventing radon-induced lung cancer and saving lives through education and outreach. Visit CanSAR.org to learn more about the fight to prevent radon-induced lung cancer.

-XXXX-