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Cornerstone

The official magazine of the Home Builders Association of West Florida



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Next Issue: November 2015

Edit: October 2, 2015 Space: October 15, 2015 Materials: October 21, 2015

Magazine Design & Layout by warren wight creative services www.warrenworld.com



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Cornerstone, the monthly publication of the Home Builders Association of West Florida serving Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, is published monthly, twelve (12x) per year. Send address changes to HBA of West Florida, 4400 Bayou Boulevard, Suite 45, Pensacola, Florida 32503-1910. Cornerstone, is published in the interests of all segments of the home building industry and is distributed to its members and others associated with the HBA of West Florida. HBA of West Florida and Richard K. Nicholson Pub., Inc. does not accept responsibility for, or endorse any statement or claims made by advertisers or authors of any articles. Every effort has been made to assure accuracy of information, but authenticity cannot be guaranteed. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of Home Builders Association of West Florida, Copyright ©, 4400 Bayou Boulevard, Suite 45, Pensacola, Florida 32503-1910, 850.476.0318. Advertisers and advertorials in Cornerstone do not constitute an offer for sale in states where prohibited by law.

Do You Care Enough to Be an Involved Member Who Can Make a Difference?

Who will lead the Florida home building industry into the future? That question lies at the heart of my deepest concerns about our future. Committed industry leaders are the foundation upon which the day-to-day problems can be solved. Leadership translates into ideas, action, governmental affairs, membership growth and non-dues revenues for our Association.

Our current leaders our doing an outstanding job for our Association and I proud of the work they do. But they have family and work commitments like everyone else, and they'd like nothing more than for a new round of leaders to step up to the plate and help them.

What's stopping them? Probably the biggest barriers to leadership involvement are time away from business and family. Those are difficult objections to overcome. Frankly, if your business is not profitable, you really have no basis on which to lead. As for family objections, I greatly respect the men and women who honor them, and that respect far exceeds that which they could earn from me for business success.

As important as business and family are, I don't believe they are the only weapons being used to deal death blows to involvement. By far the most lethal enemy is apathy. Which begs the personal question: If everyone contributed to the success our the Home Builders Association of West Florida to the exact level you do, would our industry be able to overcome the many obstacles to affordable housing, the threat of impact fees and sensible growth?

The fact is that our Association needs you. You can begin by attending a membership meeting. Our members go to great expense and your attendance would go a long way in showing your support for the HBA. You can also select one or two areas of interest, say the Governmental Affairs Committee or Membership Committee that we are currently working to revitalize. Work hard, learn and evolve yourself into a committee chair. Broaden your interest by learning about how your Association is governed. Then inform the President, Senior Officers or Executive Director that you'd like to serve on the Board of Directors. Continue the learning process to the point where you feel you could actually serve as President (builder) or Second Vice President (Associate member)... then make your intentions known to our leadership.

Most likely, we will welcome you with open arms. And once you've served in the top leadership positions, refocus your energies on mentoring new leaders. But remember, there remains a price to be paid. You must be willing to sacrifice your personal interests for the consensus policies of the Association. You must conduct your business and your life in a manner that inspires others to follow. This means honesty, integrity, and a solid work ethic. And you must be willing to be a bold spokesperson for the industry, carrying our message to members, potential members, government bodies, the media and public.

But most of all, you must care about our industry so deeply that your enthusiasm becomes contagious and ignites our entire Association.

And where is the payoff for you? The satisfaction of knowing that you were one of the few, proud people who cared enough to make a difference.

President's Message



"The fact is that our Association needs you. You can begin by attending a membership meeting. Our members go to great expense and your dance would go a long way in showing your support for the HBA."

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY SHOWE BUILDING PAYS ITS WAY IN SANTA ROSA COUNTY

An economic impact study conducted by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Housing Policy Department shows that the home building industry in Santa Rosa County not only pays for itself, its economic impact results in new income and jobs for Floridians and additional revenue for local governments.

Every 1,000 singlefamily homes built in Santa Rosa County in 2014 will generate a cumulative \$116.8 million in revenue, compared to only \$68.4 million in costs over the next 14 years. By the end of the first year the housing industry's economic impacts more than offset the fiscal costs resulting in a fiscal surplus to local governments and, the fiscal surpluses are more than enough to pay off all debt and result in a surplus available to pay for additional government services. Collectively new single-family housing produces a net income to local governments of \$6,224,900 in the first year, and \$3,026,000 each and every year thereafter.

"These results show that home building more

than pays its own way and should put to rest the notion that existing home owners subsidize new home construction here in the Pensacola area," said Dr. Elliot Eisenberg, the President of GraphsandLaughs, LLC, an economic consultancy, who reviewed the analysis of the impact of home building here in Santa Rosa County and is familiar with local economic conditions. "This is an outstanding result and it suggests that local residents should be thanking the building industry for footing the bill for a great many local services and for keeping a lid on property taxes."

The economic impact study looks at the impact of the construction industry in three phases: the construction phase; the ripple effect; and, the occupancy phase. The impact of the three phases are added up, and then compared to the cost of services such as education, fire, police, utilities, parks and recreation and roads that are required to support the new housing units.

During the construction phase, the building of every 1,000 single-family homes creates 2,296 jobs (1,764 jobs in construction alone), generates \$10.8 million in local taxes and \$130.6 million of local income in the first year. The ripple effect of those homes, which includes the wages and profits local area residents earn

during the construction period that are spent on other local goods and services, results in another 1,255 jobs, \$6.5 million in local taxes and \$61.3 million in local income, also in the first year. The ongoing annual effect of those homes, which includes local jobs, income and taxes generated as a result of the home being occupied, is 667 jobs, \$6.9 million in local taxes and \$32.3 million in local income per year.

"It is important for us to look closely at these numbers," said HBA President Shelby Johnson. "We've been saying for a long time that local home builders are doing their part to build community, and these numbers show that we are a very important player in the overall economic health of our economy."

The NAHB model used to determine the economic impact of the housing industry was first developed by NAHB in 1997 and has been applied to construction in more than 800 areas of the country. This study looks at economic impact of building 1,000 average priced single family homes across all of Santa Rosa County in 2014.







PARTICIPATING CHAPTERS

Many Home Builders Association members are already saving time and money through the NPP program.

To access the discount pricing, register with NPP. Signing up is easy.

HOW TO REGISTER

- Go to www.mynpp.com. Click "Join Now".
- Select "Construction" from the dropdown menu.
- Select "Residential" from the Category dropdown menu.
- Select "HBPP" from the Association dropdown menu.
- Complete the registration form.

For more information about the program, feel free to contact NPP:

800.810.3909
customerservice@mynpp.com
www.mynpp.com



EXCLUSIVE PRICING FOR HBA MEMBERS

Since 2007 many HBA Chapters have partnered with NPP to offer members discount pricing on several products and services. NPP negotiates the rates, and makes them available to HBA members throughout the country.

This program is entirely free, and there is no obligation to purchase. To access the savings, register with NPP at www.mynpp.com. Included among the discounts available to participating HBA Chapter members:



- Corporate Discount 22% off all wireless calling plans \$34.99 & higher and free activation
- Employee Discount 18% off wireless calling plans \$34.99 and higher
- Select Accessory Discount 35% (corporate) and 25% (employee/family)
- \$20 Unlimited Wireless E-mail feature on corporate lines
- Variable discounts on phones

Verizon Eligibility Requirements: Each Member must be a construction company, heavy highway, concrete, remodeling company or other trade craftsman (e.g.: a subcontractor such as an electician or plumber whose primary trade is within the construction industry).



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The Auxiliary Council's Angel Tree program originally started in conjunction with the Council's Annual Auction as a means to raise funds to provide new clothing or toys for children who were undergoing therapeutic treatment and lived at the Lakeview Center. With donations made by the Home Builders and its Associates, Council "Santa's" made sure these troubled children enjoyed the holiday fun and love their families could not support by purchasing, wrapping and distributing individual gifts for them and hosting a holiday party and other various events throughout the year.

Because of the growing need for support of various other worthy causes and the Council's desire to broaden their services and involvement in the Community, the Council elected to take a new approach with the 2015 Angel Tree Drive. Our initiatives have been expanded to include many other organizations and beneficiaries, such as Gulf Coast Kid's House, ARC/Gateway, Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, (LeapPlay) Workman Middle School and University of West Florida. We'll continue to support the Lakeview "Kids", but in a fashion that will provide more permanent and effective utilization of the donations. Whether it be helping abused children, people with developmental disabilities, young people who have the skills and desire to further their education but lack the resources, or simply those who are hungry and need food, the Council's mission is to make a significant, lasting difference in the lives of these, our fellow citizens, friends, and families. Our theme this year is

"Make it REAL; Change someone's life!"

Rather than asking for individual Angel "Sponsors" as in the past, we have established four levels of participation designated as Blue, Silver, Gold, and White. At HBA's Annual Auction, a uniquely fashioned Christmas tree will be decorated with the color and number of ornaments for the contributions and the contributors recognized. Your pledge is the ONLY way the Council can continue this wonderful tradition. Thank you for your generous support!

Please return this form w	vith the following	informa	tion to the HBA offic	e or give to any
Auxiliary Council memb	er:			663
Name:				
Company Name:				
Email Address:				
Work Number:			Cell Phone:	
I would like to make a	pledge for one	of the	following Classific	eations:
Blue \$100Si	lver \$200	_Gold	\$300 or more	White -\$500 or more
Attached is check in the	he amount of \$_			
Please charge my Visa	a or MasterCard	l in the	amount of	
\$ Card #				;
Expiration Date:		Verific	cation Code:	
please have H	BA e-mail an ir	nvoice.		
I would like	e to donate an A	auction	Item for the Auxil	iary's Annual Fundraiser at
HBA's October Gener	ral Membership	Meetin	ng at Gene's Floor	Covering on October 13,
2015.				

TOP 10 REASONS TO DO BUSINESS WITH AN ACTIVE **ASSOCIATE** MEMBER

- 1. They support the industry at the local, state and national levels.
- 2. They volunteer time, talent and treasure to help the association accomplish its goals.
- 3. They recruit their colleagues and business contacts to become members.
- 4. They serve on committees and councils gaining valuable networking opportunity while helping to advance the association's mission.
- 5. By doing so, you increase the value proposition for all membership in our HBA.
- 6. They are strong supporters of local and state PACs and BUILD-PAC.
- 7. They are a major source of non-dues revenue through sponsorships, advertising, etc.
- 8. As industry partners, they are a valuable resource for business and management tips.
- 9. They are heavily invested in your business success:

You win, they win!

10. Why wouldn't you do business with a member?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS







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News Journal





Your support helped make this year's **EXPO** one of the best ever!

Oct. 13 **Auxiliary Auction & Oct GMM**

Gene's Floor Covering 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Fun, Food & Drinks!

Oct. 22 Fall Classic Golf Tournament Stonebrook Golf Club, Pace FL 11:00 a.m. Registration

12:00p.m. Shotgun

Nov. 3 Meet the Builder **New World Landing**

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

WE NEED BUILDER REPS!!

Nov. 4 SAM TRAM

> Sale and Marketing Committee **Bus Tour area New Construction sites** 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Interested in sponsoring a General Membership Meeting? Contact Vicki Pelletier at 850-476-0318 for more information!

Auxiliary Council Needs YOU!

The Council is committed to making a difference in our community by contributing to various organizations. Help us continue to make things happen.

> Donations are being accepted for the following:

• Auction Items (can include gift cards/gift certificates!)

• Angel Tree \$100 Donations (any amount is accepted)

Membership Drive: One Member in November! Make plans to bring in at least one new member!!

For further event details. please visit our website: www.westfloridabuilders.com





Sponsorship **Opportunities**

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE IN FRONT OF THE **BUILDERS** AND YOUR **COMPETITION!**

Meet the Builder

A Hi-Speed Networking Event

Tuesday, November 3rd, 2015 **New World Landing** 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

WHAT IS IT?

Meet the Builder is a "Hi-Speed" networking event providing Associate members direct contact with you, the builder. This event allows builders to gain valuable knowledge on a variety of products and services offered by HBA members. It also lets the builder verify whether or not his current vendor prices are competitive!

How does it work?

Builder Representatives will be stationed in a separate room and Associates will be divided into groups outside that room. Each group will enter the room at different times and will be allowed three minutes to discuss their products and services. A whistle will blow at the three minute mark and they will move to another station.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

This is a great opportunity to support your HBA and expand your list of vendors. It will give you the opportunity to increase your industry knowledge and stay competitive. This event is FREE to all participating Builder Representatives and it's FUN!!

Please contact Vicki Pelletier at 476-0318 for more information.



PLATINUM SPONSOR - \$800

Four complimentary tickets to event.

Name & Logo as Presenting Sponsor on all event information.

5 minutes at the podium to address the attendees. Opportunity to do a "Table Top" display at the event.

Your company will be in the first group to Meet The Builder.

Verbal recognition during the event.
Recognition in the HBA's Cornerstone publication.
Recognition on the HBA website.

GOLD SPONSOR-\$500

Two complimentary tickets to event.

Opportunity to do a "Table Top" display at the event.

Your company will be in the second group to Meet The Builder.

Company name and logo on event information.

Verbal recognition during the event. Recognition in the HBA's Cornerstone publication.

Recognition on the HBA website.

SILVER SPONSOR-\$250

One complimentary ticket to event.

Your company will be in the third group to Meet The Builder.

Company name on event information.

Verbal recognition during the event. Recognition in the HBA's Cornerstone publication.

Recognition on the HBA website.

Food Sponsor-\$500

Two complimentary tickets to event. Opportunity to do a "Table Top" display at the event.

Your company will be in the first group to Meet The Builder.

Company name and logo on event information.

Verbal recognition during the event.
Recognition in the HBA's Cornerstone publication.

Recognition on the HBA website.

Beverage Sponsor-\$500

Two complimentary tickets to event. Opportunity to do a "Table Top" display at the event.

Your company will be in the second group to Meet The Builder.

Company name and logo on event information.

Verbal recognition during the event.

Recognition in the HBA's Cornerstone publication.

Recognition on the HBA website.

Bronze Sponsor-\$150

Company name on event information.

Verbal recognition during the event. Recognition in the HBA's Cornerstone publication.

Recognition on the HBA website.

Please contact Vicki Pelletier at 476-0318 for more information.

Preparing for the October 3rd TRID implementation

stewart Vetted and verified.

By Vicki H. Campbell, CLS

The new regulatory environment will present challenges to everyone involved in real estate.

The October 3, 2015 effective date of the TRID (TILA/



RESPA Integrated Disclosure) rules and regulations is quickly approaching, and there is still a lot to be done in order to prepare.

Here is what you should know at the very least:

The new

- TRID rules and forms will go into effect October 3, 2015

 The new Closing Disclosure (CD) is replacing the HUD1 and final Truth-in-Lending for most types of residential
 transactions. The lender is responsible for the delivery of
 the CD. It must be received by the consumer (the borrower)
 three business days before consummation (interpreted as
 signing of the note).
- The lender must use quality service providers. This is outlined in the CFPB bulletin 2012-03, which can be found by clicking on this link: CFPB Bulletin 2012-03 (http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201204_cfpb_bulletin_service-providers.pdf).

As one of the focal points for real estate transactions, builders will be affected by a number of these rules and regula-

tions put forth by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). You will need to be able to talk your homebuyers through the new forms resulting from the final mortgage disclosure rule – which will also affect the timing of your transactions with a mandatory three business-day notification for both the Loan Estimate form (http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201311_cfpb_kbyo_loan-estimate.pdf) and the Closing Disclosure form (http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201311_cfpb_kbyo_closing-disclosure.pdf).

So, what should you do about all of these new changes? First, learn as much as you can about the new rules and prepare for the changes in the transaction process well ahead of time. Second, meet with lenders to hear how they plan to implement the changes. Third, plan ahead by making sure your closing partners are vetted and verified by your lenders and meet with them to discuss the new disclosures and their preparations for the new regulatory environment.

Builders will quickly need to adapt to the new regulations and rules and prepare a pathway to success in the new regulatory environment.

Vicki H. Campbell, CLS is an agency representative with Stewart Title, located at 125 W. Romana St. Suite 620, Pensacola, FL 32502. For more information, contact Vicki at (850) 483–8581 main, (850) 449–1196 or email: mobilevicki.campbell@stewart.com

This article is intended to provide an overview of the CFPB and pending regulations, for the full version of the proposed rules, readers can visit www.consumerfinance.govhttp://www.consumerfinance.gov.

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HBA FALL GOLF CLASSIC October 22, 2015 STONEBROOK Golf Club

Sponsorship Form page 16

Player/Team Registration Form page15

Questions? vicki@hbawf.com

Registration: 11:00 a.m.

Shotgun: 12:00 p.m.

Limited to 128 Players

4 - Person Scramble

\$80 Per Player





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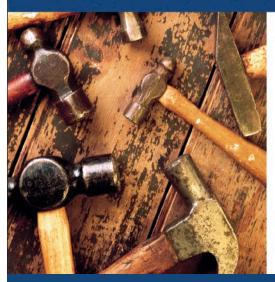


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IBA of West Florida Fall Golf Classic

Golfers Registration Form

October 22, 2015 Stonebrook Golf Course

Registration: 11:00 a.m. Shotgun: 12:00 p.m.

Limited to 128 Players

4 - Person Scramble

\$80 Per Player

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- Your business' name listed in all communications sent out.
- Your marketing materials can be included in "Goodie Bags"
- Your business represented on Banner the day of the tournament

Deadline to Register is October 15, 2015

Please print the name of each player and their handicap in the spaces provided. Registration will be by player name. If changes occur please notify HBA prior to event.

Submit form with payment information prior to October. 15th

if you need an invoice for payment purposes, please contact vicki Pelietier at vicki@nbawi.com or 850-476-0318.				
Players Names, Handicap and Email				
Name:	Name:			
Handicap (Required/ Max 30)	Handicap (Required/ Max 30)			
Email:	Email:			
Name:	Name: Handicap (Required/Max 30)			
Handicap (Required/ Max 30)	Handicap (Required/Max 30)			
Email:	Email:			
Company Name:	Need receipt? emailed mailed			
Contact Name :	Email or Telephone:			
Charge my (Visa, Mastercard or AmEx) in the amount of \$				
Card Number:	Expiration: CVV Code			

HBA of West Florida - 4400 Bayou Blvd., Suite #45 - Pensacola, FL 32503



HBA of West Florida Fall Golf Classic Sponsorship Form

October 22, 2015 Stonebrook Golf Course

Platinum Sponsor.....\$1000 *Please note that hole Drink Cart Sponsor.....\$400 *(only 2 more available / first come-first served) Company Logo on Front of Golf T-Shirts preference will be Company Name and logo on Drink Cart Banner Provided by your company displayed on given in Exposure on Entire Golf Course sponsorship level Company recognition in Cornerstone Inclusion of logo on all tournament related materials order (platinum, *Drink Carts can be driven by your staff Golf Package including Lunch, Cart & Green Fees gold, silver, bronze). (\$320 value) Hole Sponsor.....\$300 Special sponsor recognition at the Kick-off Set up and Staff at Hole of Your Choice* Opportunity to include written materials and company All Sponsors who Company Name and Logo on event banner related items in "Goodie Bag" Sign Placed at Hole* items in "Goodie Bag" would like to Company recognition in Cornerstone Company recognition in Cornerstone contribute items for the "Goodie bags" Gold Sponsor......\$600 must deliver the Golf Package including Lunch, Cart & Green Fees items to the HBA Of~ (\$320 value) Goodie Bag Sponsor.....\$150 fice prior to Set up and Staff at Hole of Your Choice *(only one available / First come-first served) October 12, 2015 Company Name and Logo on shirt and event banner Distribute Goodie bags to all players at registration Company recognition in Cornerstone You supply bags with your company logo. Sign Placed at Hole items in "Goodie Bag" Company recognition in Comerstone Silver Sponsor......\$295 Sponsorship Mulligan Sponsor.....\$150 Golf Package including Lunch, Cart, Green fees Deadline: *(only one available / first come-first served) for 2 golfers (\$160 Value) Your Company's Name on the Mulligan Cards Company Name and Logo on event banner HBA Staff will sell the cards at registration October 12, 2015 Opportunity to put items in "Goodie Bag" Company recognition in Cornerstone Company recognition in Cornerstone Special sponsor recognition at the Kick-off TEE SIGN.....\$100 **Bronze Sponsor......\$195** No Sponsor Level Company Name on Tee Block Golf Package including Lunch, Cart, Green fees Will be Secured Company recognition in Cornerstone for 1 golfer (\$80 Value) Without Opportunity to put items in "Goodie Bag" Company recognition in Cornerstone Payment. Place an "X" next to desired sponsorship level and submit with payment via fax to 494-9764. ____ Platinum Sponsor _____ Gold Sponsor _____ Silver Sponsor _____ Bronze Sponsor _____ Beer Cart Sponsor Goody Bag Sponsor Tee Sign Sponsor Mulligan Sponsor Hole Sponsor Company Name: _____ Need receipt? ____ emailed ____ mailed Email or Telephone: Contact Name:

For more information contact the HBA at (850) 476-0318 or vicki@hbawf.com

Card Number: _____ Expiration: ____ CVV Code: ____

Charge my (Visa, Mastercard or AmEx) in the amount of \$_____ for my selected sponsorship level.

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Signature:

Property Tax Collections Increase

By Robert Dietz

According to NAHB analysis of Census Bureau's quarterly data, property taxes made up 38.9% of state and local tax receipts among major sources over the last four quar-

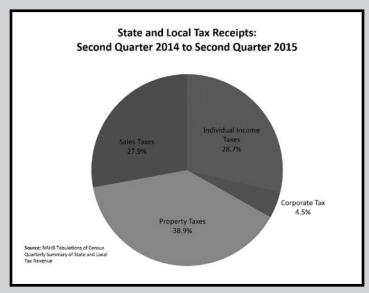
ters. Property tax collections, including commercial real property taxes and personal property taxes, totaled more than \$503 billion over the last year. This represents an increase of almost \$13 billion, as measured on a four-quarter trailing basis, or an almost 3% gain.

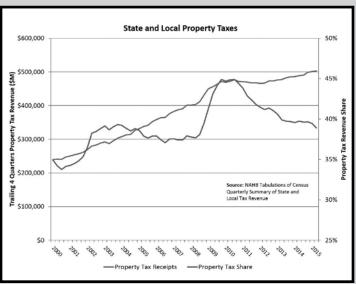
From the second quarter of 2014 to the end of the second quarter of 2015, sales taxes and individual taxes were the next largest revenue sources at 27.9% and 28.7% respectively. At 4.5%, corporate income taxes held the smallest share of state and local tax receipts.

Gains for state and local non-property tax collections have outpaced increases in property tax receipts in recent years because such non-property taxes experienced the greatest declines during the recession. This impact pushed the property tax share of total receipts from the four major sources from a high of 44.9% in the third quarter of 2010 to just below 39% for the second quarter of 2015. The current share is close to the pre-housing boom average of 38% (on a four-quarter basis) for the period of 2001-2003.

Lagging property assessments and annual adjustments smooth property tax collections across business cycles, and as such nominal property tax collections are not as prone to cyclical fluctuations as other tax collections.

* Data footnote: Census data for property tax collections include taxes paid for all real estate assets (as well as personal property), including owner-occupied homes, rental housing, commercial real estate, and agriculture. However, housing's share is the largest when considering the stock of both owner-occupied and rental housing units.





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NAHB URGES FDIC NOT TO PENALIZE SMALL BANKS FOR MAKING AD&C LOANS

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) filed comments with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. on Sept. 11 regarding a proposed rule by the agency that would revise how it determines deposit insurance assessments for banks with \$10 billion in assets or less, which encompasses most community banks.

FDIC's proposal could raise deposit insurance assessments for banks that carry a greater concentration of construction and development loans on their books. The agency considers these loans a greater risk because many community bank failures during the recent financial crisis were associated with a high portfolio concentration of such assets.

In its comments, NAHB said that FDIC's proposal is flawed because the agency assumes the nationwide performance of AD&C loans in the past will continue to present an increased level of risk to all small established banks in the future.

NAHB also pointed out that the proposal fails to distinguish between institutions with sound underwriting and risk management practices and those that exhibited a less rigorous approach to acquisition, development and construction (AD&C) lending.

"The proposed rule would penalize banks for future AD&C lending based on past industry events over which many had no control or involvement," NAHB stated.

NAHB is calling on FDIC to alter its proposed industrywide weighted charge-off rates for construction and development loans and calculate them based on an individual bank's actual charge-off rate for these loans.

This would provide banks with an incentive to "make good loans and implement sound risk management practices since the performance of their loans would have a direct impact on their deposit insurance assessments," NAHB said. "At the very least, charge-off rates should be calculated on a regional basis rather than on a nationwide basis in recognition of the significant impact of local economic factors on area businesses."

For more information email Becky Froass at NAHB or call her at 1-800-368-5242 x8529.

A Renewed Push for Housing Finance Reform September 10, 2015

In an effort to advance housing finance reform that will provide certainty and stability to the nation's financial markets and promote job and economic growth, NAHB has updated its 2012 white paper on this key housing issue.

Why Housing Matters: A Comprehensive Framework for Housing Finance System Reform reflects market developments since 2012 and retains the central tenet of NAHB's housing finance system reform policy – the creation of a new securitization system for conventional mortgages backed by private capital and a privately funded mortgage-backed insurance fund with a federal government backstop in the event of catastrophic circumstances.

NAHB supports comprehensive finance reform based on the bipartisan Johnson-Crapo bill (S. 1217) approved by the Senate Banking Committee in the last Congress that would gradually transition Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into a private-sectororiented system, where the federal government's role is clear, but its exposure is limited.

The home building industry's ability to meet the demand for housing and contribute significantly to the nation's economic growth depends on an efficient housing finance system. However, years after the fact, home buyers and builders continue to confront challenging credit conditions triggered by an overzealous regulatory response to the Great Recession.

While there are many reasons Congress and federal regulators must tackle housing finance reform, some stand out as compelling:

- 1. The Housing Act of 1949 pledged a "decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family." That principle remains a bedrock for Americans, although delivering on the promise is more difficult in 2015 and beyond.
- 2. Homeownership has been the most effective step on the ladder into the middle class and to create wealth for most Americans since the 1950s, and continues to fill that role while also fulfilling the promise of the Housing Act of 1949.
- 3. Housing is "made in America." The jobs that home building creates cannot be shipped overseas. Most of the products used in home construction are manufactured here in the U.S. and directly correlate to American manufacturing jobs at all levels.
- 4. A reformed national housing finance policy supports the Housing Act of 1949's goals. Equally important, fixing an inefficient housing finance system that lacks effective financial safeguards for the nation's housing and mortgage markets will markedly reduce the probability of triggering another catastrophic Great Recession.

NAHB will continue to work diligently with policymakers to advance housing finance reform that will maintain an appropriate level of government support to preserve financial stability, encourage private capital back into the marketplace and ensure liquidity and stability for homeownership and rental housing.

For more information, email Chellie Hamecs at NAHB or call her at 800-368-5242 x8425.

Office of Advocacy Cites National Association of Home Builders Concerns on Proposed Overtime Rule

The Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration has cited National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) concerns regarding the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) draft regulation that will increase the federal overtime salary threshold from the current \$23,660 to \$50,440.

In a comment letter to DOL, the Office of Advocacy charged that DOL could have taken into account the impact this proposal would have on industry sub-sectors.

"The National Association of Home Builders completed a state-by-state breakdown of the impact of this rule to first-line supervisors in the construction industry (as defined by multiple North American Industry Classification System industry codes) and the analysis showed a large variation in the percentage of workers who would be overtime eligible making under \$50,440 depending on the state and the subsector," the letter stated.

"It is clear from these examples that this proposal will have vastly different impacts in terms of the number of small entities affected and the extent of their regulatory burden. DOL should analyze these regional and industry subsector differences as well as consider them when constructing regulatory alternatives," it said.

The Office of Advocacy was referring to data compiled by NAHB economists that provides a state-by-state breakdown showing that more than 110,000 construction supervisors would no longer be eligible for the exemption, and may be overtime-eligible under this new rule.

Under current law, workers who earn less than \$23,660 a year are considered non-exempt employees by the Department of Labor and employers must pay them time and a half for any hours they work over a traditional 40-hour week.

The Fair Labor Standard Act's white-collar exemptions exclude certain executive, administrative, and professional employees from federal minimum wage and overtime requirements. Certain computer professionals and outside sales employees are also excluded from these requirements.

The new proposed overtime regulations would take effect on Jan. 1, 2016.

NAHB is concerned that changes to the current overtime standard will reduce job-advancement opportunities and the hours of full-time construction supervisors, leading to construction delays, increased costs and less affordable housing options for consumers.

The Office of Advocacy represents the views of small businesses before federal agencies and Congress. It is an independent office within the U.S. Small Business Administration. As such, the views expressed by the Office of Advocacy do not necessarily reflect the views of the Small Business Administration or the Obama Administration.

For more information, contact Suzanne Beall at 800-368-5242 x8407.

Courtesy of NAHBNow

Different Buyer Preferences? New vs. Existing Homes

If you have ever wondered what drives a home buyer to select a particular home look no further. The American Housing Survey provides insight into the home buying process. The top two reasons for choosing a home were its size (cited by 76 percent of buyers) and room layout/design (74 percent). The house's price and the neighborhood were each cited by 72 percent of home buyers. For buyers of new homes, room layout/design, neighborhood, exterior appearance and construction quality tended to be even more important than for other types of buyers. Among first-time buyers, on the other hand, price was more often a consideration.

The neighborhood a home is located in, also plays a major factor in home selection. The top two reasons for choosing a neighborhood were "the house itself" (cited by 85 percent of buyers) and safety (71 percent). Safety, looks/design and to some extent good schools tended to be more important to new home buyers than to other types of buyers. Proximity to work and friends/family tended to be more important to first-time buyers.

Home buyers looked at 10 different homes before deciding which one to buy (median). About half of the buyers used their saving for a downpayment, 17 percent used the sale of a previous home, and 11 percent purchased their home without a downpayment.

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Waged ongoing legal and media campaigns

against inclusionary zoning to preserve your property rights.

Expanded online education

through Building Media's Code College Initiative, designed to link industry professionals to experts in learning current practices.

Changed the Endangered Species Act

to allow for speedier, less-costly development.

Unveiled marketing tools

for membership recruitment to expand business contacts and leadership opportunities.

Pushed for solutions to

the property and builders' risk insurance crisis while continuing to promote creation of federal and regional catastrophic loss funds.

Formed a Commercial Builders Council

to help residential builders diversify into this lucrative market.

Partnered with the Florida Green Building Coalition to

create uniform, cost-saving green building standards.

Protected our future

by endorsing pro-housing, probusiness candidates for cabinet and legislative positions.

Persuaded the Corps of Engineers

to issue a regional general permit for Northeast Florida, streamlining the development process.

PLITY

Supported the Florida Building Commission's

decision to uphold the wind-borne zone in the panhandle at 130 miles per hour instead of 120.

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In construction, a spike is a steel object that is essential to making a building strong. As in construction, the HBA of West Florida sees a Spike as someone that works to keep our association strong. Spikes work on the recruitment and retention of members in addition to keeping members active with the association. Anyone is eligible for Spike status. On Spike credit is awarded for each new member recruited and an additional credit is awarded for that new member's renewal on or before their anniversary date. If you help to retain a member, you are eligible to receive a half point for each member.

Spike Club Levels

Spike Candidate	1-5 credits
Blue Spike	6-24
Life Spike	25-49
Green Spike	50-99
Red Spike	100-149
Royal Spike	150-249
Super Spike	250-499
Statesman Spike	500-999
Grand Spike	1000-1499
All-Time Big Spike	1500+

Spike Club Members and their credits as of 07/31/2015.

Statesman Spike	500 Credits
Harold Logan	509
Super Spike	250 Credits
Rod Hurston	410.5
Jack McCombs	287.5
Royal Spike	150 Credits
Ron Anderson	201
Edwin Henry	197
Rick Sprague	197
Bob Boccanfuso	161.5
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Red Spike	100 Credits
William "Billy" Moore	144.5
Lee Magaha	127.5

Green Spike	50 Credits
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If you would like to join the Spike Club or Desire Additional Information, please contact Vicki Pelletier

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