

## Your Membership At Work



I write this on the eve of my fourth session as a registered lobbyist representing the interest of businesses engaged in residential construction. And one thing is certain, the need for strong representation has never been greater. As we meet with legislative leaders these past weeks, we

have stressed that the red-hot resale market does not reflect the health of the residential construction industry.

We continue to share the data that shows a drop in new construction permits pulled between 2020 and 2021 and we point out how one must look as far back as 2011 to see lower permit numbers than seen now.

We stress the downward pressures of supply chain disruptions, material cost increases, workforce shortages, the rising costs and scarcity of buildable lots are further negatively impacting our industry. We paint this picture in the hopes it might discourage the legislature and the Governor's administration from making it even more costly to build housing units in CT by passing legislation like conveyance taxes to benefit open space or stretch codes that allow towns to compel builders to employ energy efficiency and resiliency measure that are beyond existing code, just to name a few concepts that are currently being considered.

But it is not all doom and gloom for our industry. We are learning of proposals that provide substantial investments in retrofitting of existing housing stock to raise the bar on energy efficiency.

And DOH is currently considering a plan to dedicate millions in federal COVID relief funds to new affordable housing of all types.

- ▶ We continue to urge DOH to dedicate ARPA dollars to the expansion of water and sewer into smaller communities that are actively seeking development opportunities.
- ▶ The HBRA continues to be actively engaged in the conversations with policy makers about greater density around transit stations and where adequate infrastructure already exists.
- ▶ Lastly, we are making great strides in educating policy makers on the clear and immediate need to focus on the workforce development in the residential construction sector while exploring ways in which the HBRA can take advantage of existing funding to meet our workforce issues head on.

### Your voice and your opinion matters.

Articulating your thoughts and concerns to us and your representatives can make all the difference. It has never been easier for HBRA members to better engage in the political process. We encourage members to get involved to the degree that your comfort and availability permits. Whether you simply want to be more informed, or you would like to help shape HBRA policies and legislative goals we welcome your engagement. Please consider the following:

- ▶ Look out for weekly emails with legislative updates and HBRA news that impacts our industry
- ▶ Register for text alerts that allow you to contact your legislator with prewritten emails with only a couple of clicks of a button (Text: HBRACT To: 50457 to register)
- ▶ Attend our weekly virtual Government Affairs meetings that shape our policies and direct our actions before state government
- ▶ **Attend our free and virtual Home Building Day at the Capitol Webinar on Tuesday, March 1st from 10:00 to 11:30 AM.**

Your attendance matters. A large number Confirmed participants will demonstrate to state policymakers that HBRA members are engaged and keeping a watchful eye on state government. This year's confirmed participants include:

- DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes
- NAHB Chief Economist, Dr. Robert Dietz
- Legislative leaders of the Housing Committee and Planning & Development Committee, including
  - Sen. Steve Cassano
  - Rep. Cristin McCarthy Vahey
  - Rep. Joe Zullo
  - Sen. Rick Lopes
  - Sen. Paul Cicarella
  - Rep. Joe Polletta

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