

INDIANA BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

Legislative and Regulatory Report #18

June 5, 2008

Rick Wajda- (800) 377-6334- rick@buildindiana.org

Gretchen White (800) 377-6334 – gretchen@buildindiana.org

House of Representatives- (800) 382-9842

Indiana Senate- (800) 382-9467

HIGHLIGHTS/NEWS

IBA GOLF OUTING APPROACHING

Plan to play in IBA's annual golf outing at Cherry Hill Golf Club in Fort Wayne on Tuesday, June 17th. The day will provide lots of fun and networking opportunities so sign-up today by contacting Heather Sturgeon at (800) 377-6334 or Heather@BuildIndiana.org.

SPEND THREE HOURS WITH ATTORNEYS PROVIDING INFORMATION AND ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

The Housing Industry Laws, Rules, and Regulations Conference will be held in Fort Wayne at the Marriott Fort Wayne on Wednesday, June 18th from 9 a.m.-noon. Plan to attend for important information on how to comply with new and recently amended laws. Sponsored by Locke Reynolds and hosted by IBA, this three hour session will provide an opportunity for you to hear from attorneys on important issues and ask any questions you may have. Please contact Heather Sturgeon at (800) 877-6334 or Heather@BuildIndiana.org to register.

IBA MEMBER SWORN IN AS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

IBA member Representative Heath Van Natter (R-Kokomo) was sworn into the Indiana House of Representatives this week after winning the caucus election to fill the vacancy created by now Senator Jim Buck (R-Kokomo). Representative Van Natter will serve the remainder of the term but due to strong arming of Clinton County Chairwoman Beverly Bush at the caucus, Jacque Clements (current Clinton Co. Auditor) will be placed on November's ballot as the Republican candidate. Clements originally said she was uncertain if she would accept the nomination and still has the option to remove her name from the ballot.

NEW-HOME SALES UP IN APRIL

Sales of newly built, single-family homes rose 3.3% in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 526,000 units, the U.S. Commerce Department recently reported. However, this gain reflected downward revisions to sales numbers reported for each of the previous three months, including a particularly large revision for March. Sales for March were revised substantially downward to 509,000 units -11% below the revised February reading.

LEGISLATIVE

IBA MEETS WITH OUCC TO DISCUSS ENERGY EFFICIENT MEASURES

IBA staff and members recently met with David Stippler at the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor to discuss energy efficient programs and public relations campaign to increase awareness of its importance. IBA also discussed the recently adopted NAHB Resolution for Energy in Existing Homes.

IBA MEETS WITH JILL LONG THOMPSON

IBA recently met with gubernatorial candidate Jill Long Thompson in Fort Wayne at her request to discuss her view on issues important to the housing industry.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RACE CANDIDATES FIRMED UP

The State Republican Convention chose Greg Zoeller as the Republican candidate for Attorney General this week. Zoeller is the current Deputy Attorney General and beat Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas for the spot on November's ballot. Democrat attorney Linda Pence will seek the nomination from the Democrat State Convention and currently no other Democrats are seeking the nomination.

CAUCUS TO BE HELD FOR LONG TIME SENATOR'S SEAT

Senator Bob Meeks (R-LaGrange) recently announced his intention to remove his name from the ballot in the General Election this year due to health issues. Meeks has served in the Senate for 20 years and district includes all or portions of DeKalb, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble and Steuben. State Representatives Matt Bell (R-Avilla) and Marlin Stutzman (R-Howe) have expressed interest in running for this open Senate seat and a caucus will soon decide who will be placed on the ballot to run as the Republican candidate.

NAHB NEWS

FIRE SPRINKLERS MANDATE

Once again, proponents of fire sprinklers are seeking to mandate these costly systems in the IRC for all one and two family homes and townhomes and expect advocates for the mandates will be working hard to "get out the vote" to achieve the two-thirds majority needed to overturn the committee's action at the final hearing. To counter their efforts at Spring Board, NAHB launched its own grassroots campaign against the proposed fire sprinkler mandates. For more information, please contact Gretchen White at IBA (800) 377-6334 or Gretchen@BuildIndiana.org.

SHORT-TERM HOUSING OUTLOOK REMAINS BLEAK

Recent housing market indicators –including NAHB's survey measures as well as incoming data on home sales, housing starts and permits, housing inventories and home prices –show that the housing market contraction still is underway, and expect further declines to occur in the economic and financial market environment we're projecting for the rest of this year and 2009. NAHB expects starts to be down by 37% for 2008 as a whole, followed by decent recovery in 2009.

NAHB HEADQUARTERS GARNERS FOURTH ENERGY STAR

NAHB has earned its fourth Energy Star designation for the National Housing Center, the downtown Washington D.C. office building that serves as the association's headquarters. The designation recognizes buildings that conserve natural resources while providing a comfortable and healthy environment for employees and visitors.