

INDIANA BUILDERS ASSOCIATION
Legislative and Regulatory Report #18
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HIGHLIGHTS/NEWS

IBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING CHANGED, NOTE NEW DATE

IBA's Board of Directors will meet on **MONDAY, JUNE 8th** at the Hilton Indianapolis North (8181 N. Shadeland Ave. 46250) instead of Tuesday, June 9th. Please make sure to mark your calendars for this important meeting which will be held from 4-6 p.m. and feature Secretary of State Todd Rokita as the keynote speaker.

STATE HOLDS 1ST PUBLIC HEARING ON WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM – 2ND SET

The Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority held its first public hearing earlier this week to take testimony on the State's Weatherization Assistance Program which provides comprehensive weatherization services to low-income households. Activities may include, but are not limited to: furnace and water heater health and safety evaluation, repair and/or replacement; insulation of the attic, sidewalks, or other uninsulated areas; and measured, and cost effective air sealing of the structure. Services are designed to reduce energy consumption and utility costs for heating low-income homes. The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) is holding a second public hearing on May 28, 2009 to receive comment and testimony regarding the State of Indiana's Weatherization Assistance Program plan available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Hearing will be held from 11:00AM – 12:00PM (EDT) at 30 South Meridian Street, Suite 800, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. Comments will be taken on the selection and capacity of the sub-grantees that IHCDA has chosen to implement the Weatherization Assistance Program.

GREEN CONFERENCE MONDAY, REGISTER TODAY

The Second Annual Go Green Conference is being held Monday, May 11th from 10-5 p.m. at the Hilton Indianapolis North (8181 N. Shadeland Ave. 46250). The conference will discuss the newly ANSI-approved National Green Building Standard in detail and provide a networking opportunity with suppliers. Members can attend the conference for just \$25. Additional information is available at www.buildindiana.org or contact IBA at (800) 377-6334. Walk-in registrations will be accepted and IBA will have copies of the Standard available for \$30.

FED CHAIRMAN EXPECTS IMPROVEMENTS IN HOUSING AND THE ECONOMY

On May 5th Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said recent data suggest that the pace of contradiction in economic activity “may be slowing” and noted that the housing market “has shown some signs of bottoming.” Looking forward, he said the Fed expects economic activity to bottom out before long and turn upward later this year.

REMODELERS TAKE NOTE, DISTRIBUTE RENOVATE RIGHT PAMPHLETS

The U.S. EPA recently fined a South San Francisco-based painting contractor \$10,000 for failing to inform the owner and tenants of a multi-family residence about lead-based paint hazards before starting exterior work in July 2005. IBA remodelers should make sure to distribute the new EPA Renovate Right pamphlet before work begins and can be found on IBA's website (www.buildindiana.org), by choosing 'Codes and Laws' and then selecting 'EPA Lead Rule Info' for a downloadable pdf document. For hard copies, please contact Gretchen White at (800) 377-6334 or Gretchen@BuildIndiana.org.

MORTGAGE LOAN ACTIVITY DECREASES

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the pace of mortgage loan activity decreased 18.1 percent last week according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. Overall, mortgage rates were down, with 30-year loans decreasing to 4.62 percent, from 4.73 percent, and 15-year mortgages averaging 4.45 percent, down from 4.46 percent a week prior.

INSAFE PRODUCES WORKER SAFETY VIDEO

INSafe was recently tasked to create a teen summer safety video for the participants of the Young Hoosiers Conservation Corp in which nearly 2000 young workers ages 16-24 were hired to work in Indiana's State parks, forests, and trails. This video will later be a central part of our Teen Summer Safety Campaign. The video may also be of use to those in the construction industry or have younger workers (under 25).

Please see the videos at: <http://www.in.gov/dol/2366.htm> (click "Summer Safety Video" under Indiana Department of Labor Videos)

LEGISLATIVE

NEW BUDGET NUMBERS UNVEILED

Governor Mitch Daniels recently said state tax collections were \$255 million below the revised forecast for April. Daniels noted that the budget bill that was defeated by the Indiana House of Representatives last week would have wiped out the state's reserves and left roughly a \$1 billion shortfall at the end of the next two-year budget cycle in June 2011. In addition to unveiling new collection numbers, Daniels asked the state Budget Committee to request the technical committee to redo its forecast for the upcoming biennium so lawmakers have a more realistic starting point going into a special session.

NO DATE SET YET FOR SPECIAL SESSION

Governor Mitch Daniels will call lawmakers back to work at some point to pass a budget that spends less than the proposed and defeated budget proposal in the General Assembly. Speculations suggest a special session will begin in June. Once lawmakers resume, they must pass a budget by June 30 to take effect July 1 which starts the new fiscal year. IBA staff will be monitoring issues during the special session and will provide members with updates.

GOVERNOR SIGNING BILLS INTO LAW

Governor Mitch Daniels has been wading through the pieces of legislation that passed both Chambers and signing bills into law. Bills are sent to the Governor's office after being signed by the President Pro Tem and Speaker of the House which then require the Governor to take action

within 10 days of receiving the bills or they become law without his signature. IBA will keep members posted once key bills are signed into law.

REGULATORY

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ELECTRICAL RULE

The state held public hearings earlier this week on the proposed rule amending the current Indiana Residential Code (IRC) (LSA Document 09-139) and the proposed rule to adopt by reference and amend the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) as the Indiana Electrical Code, 2009 Edition (LSA Document 09-140). Since the state removed the requirement for arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCI's) and tamper-resistant (TR) receptacles due to their fiscal implications, IBA supported the proposed rules, but asked that the Fire Prevention & Building Safety Commission forward the proposed rule amending the IRC to the recently established Residential Code Review Committee for its consideration. In testimony IBA defended its position that according to 2006 and 2007 Residential Structure Fire Cause Reports published by the Fire Service Division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security there were zero (0) civilian or firefighter deaths caused by electrical distribution equipment (i.e. wires, outlets, etc.) which is what AFCI's are designed to protect. In addition, at an average cost of \$600/new home to install, AFCI's will cost Indiana's new homebuyers \$14.3 million to cover the loss of \$1.86 million in property damage. The Commission is expected to review testimony from the hearings and rule following discussion at its meeting on July 7th. For copies of the proposed rules, contact Carlie@BuildIndiana.org.

RESIDENTIAL CODE REVIEW COMMITTEE TO MEET

The state's Residential Code Review Committee will meet on May 21st from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Sterrett Center located at 8950 Otis Ave, Lawrence, IN 46216. The Committee will review Chapters 1-4 of the 2009 IRC and all proposed code changes for those chapters. The deadline for submitting proposed code changes for this meeting is May 12th. The meetings are open to the public. The meeting notice, minutes, and agenda for upcoming meetings are posted at <http://www.in.gov/dhs/2494.htm>. To propose a code change, complete and return the Proposed Code Change Form 41186R to the state of Indiana. The form can be downloaded from the code services section of the state's website at <http://www.in.gov/dhs/2375.htm> or contact Carlie@BuildIndiana.org for a Word template.

NAHB NEWS

NAHB TO HOST TELECONFERENCE ON CLAIMING ENERGY-EFFICIENCY TAX CREDITS

NAHB will host a media teleconference next week with NAHB's Director of tax issues who will discuss how to take advantage of the newly expanded federal tax credits for energy efficiency, while three professional remodelers from around the country will provide examples of the types of projects that may qualify, such as adding insulation, replacing doors and windows, and updating heating and cooling systems. To participate in the call, please dial (800) 860-2442 and ask for the "NAHB Energy Efficiency Tax Credit" call.

GREEN VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE FOR BUILDERS, BUYERS

Two new educational videos are now available from the NAHB Production Group to help home builders and their customers learn more about green building. The videos –one targeted to

customers, the other to home builders and remodelers –were produced and will be distributed to home builders associations through a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation. “The Green Home Guide: Connecting the Green Dots” provides prospective home owners with an introduction to green building, while “The Green Report” is geared to building industry professionals who are preparing to green their business practices. For more information or to purchase copies for \$25 each plus shipping and handling, please contact Dennis Harrison at (800) 368-5242 ext. 8188.