

July 8, 2013

Urgent action needed to gather cosponsors

Co-Presidents Kevin Wilfong and George Gunnell and the West Virginia Housing Institute Inc. board of directors decided at our most recent meeting in June to urge you to contact your congressperson and both U.S. senators to ask that they cosponsor legislation we need to help save the manufactured housing industry from financial ruin next January.

The board has asked me to provide you with a sample email that you can use and give you addresses to which you can send the emails. Please feel free to modify my sample so the offices do not get a number of emails that are exactly the same.

Because of problems with terrorist threats, emails now are the preferred way of contacting members of Congress.

Please feel free to share this email with anyone who has an interested in our industry, including family members, coworkers, employees and anyone else. We need a broad showing of support for our message.

Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., and a longtime supporter of ours, has signed onto the bill, so we do not need to write to him.

However, Reps. David McKinley, R-W.Va., representing the 1st Congressional District in the northern part of the state; and Rep. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., and representing the 2nd Congressional District in the middle of the state and the Eastern Panhandle, are not cosponsors.

For McKinley, please write: Mike.Hamilton@mail.house.gov

For Capito, please write: Aaron.Sporck@mail.house.gov

For your House of Representatives members, please use this:

Dear Rep. (last name):

As a member of the manufactured housing industry in West Virginia, I urge you to sign on as a cosponsor to legislation sponsored by Rep. Stephen Fincher, R-Tenn., to provide regulatory relief for our industry. The legislation is H.R. 1779. Without the changes in this bill, we believe it will be extremely difficult to get home loans for our customers after January 14, 2014. The changes are relatively minor on a national scale, but are critical to maintaining our ability to make loans. Please contact Rep. Fincher and sign onto the bill today. Manufactured housing is a critical part of the overall housing plan for West Virginia. We provide 15 percent of all housing in West Virginia.

Thank you,
(Add your name)

No bill has been introduced in the Senate, but one is being drafted by Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio. Our senators can contact Brown and sign on as cosponsors even before the bill is completed. Neither Sen. Joe Manchin nor Sen. Jay Rockefeller, both D-W.Va., is a cosponsor.

We need Manchin and Rockefeller to contact Brown and tell him they want to be cosponsors.

For Manchin, please write: Kelley_Goes@manchin.senate.gov (there is an underscore between names)

For Rockefeller, please write: Mark_Libell@rockefeller.senate.gov

For your senator, please use this:

Dear Sen. (last name):

As a member of the manufactured housing industry in West Virginia, I urge you to sign on as a cosponsor to legislation being prepared by Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, to provide regulatory relief for our industry. Without the changes in this bill, we believe it will be extremely difficult to get home loans for our industry after January 14, 2014. The changes are relatively minor on a national scale, but are critical to maintaining our ability to make loans. Please contact Sen. Brown and sign onto the bill today. Manufactured housing is a critical part of the overall housing plan for West Virginia. We provide 15 percent of all housing in West Virginia.

Thank you,
(your name)