

Seth Appleton and Hunter Kurtz Begin Key Roles at HUD

On June 28, 2019, Seth Appleton was sworn in as the Assistant Secretary of Policy Development and Research at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), alongside Hunter Kurtz who is now the Assistant Secretary of Public and Indian Housing. MHI, along with a coalition of housing industry organizations, supported both nominees throughout their confirmation processes by submitting numerous letters to the U.S. Senate advocating for their immediate confirmations. On June 20, 2019, the Senate confirmed both Appleton and Kurtz.



MHI's EVP Dr. Lesli Gooch & HUD's Seth Appleton at his swearing in

In his new position as Assistant Secretary of Policy Development and Research, Appleton will oversee the Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R), which is the unit at HUD primarily responsible for housing research and data analytics. PD&R's core functions are to: collect and analyze national housing market data; conduct research, program evaluations, and demonstrations; and provide policy advice and support to the HUD Secretary and program offices. With regards to manufactured housing, PD&R conducts research on innovative building techniques, new rules, and other regulatory requirements, including land use policies, zoning regulations, and community opposition – all of which affect housing prices. PD&R is also responsible for evaluating the policy and economic impact of the Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee's recommended updates to the HUD Code before they are published in the Federal Register. On behalf of our industry, MHI routinely participates in roundtables, conference calls, and other meetings with PD&R to ensure that manufactured housing

is always part of the conversation when researchers are looking at opportunities to increase the supply of affordable housing in America.

Mr. Appleton has a track record of support for manufactured housing going back to his tenure on Capitol Hill. He previously served as Chief of Staff to Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), the former Chairman of the House Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee. Under Mr. Appleton's tenure, Representative Luetkemeyer strongly advocated for manufactured housing issues and helped shepherd the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act through the U.S. House of Representatives on multiple occasions. During the legislative process, Representative Luetkemeyer delivered persuasive remarks about the federal regulations that made it difficult for consumers to obtain financing for manufactured homes during Committee hearings and on the House floor. Because of his strong support and advocacy, Representative Luetkemeyer was able to ensure the provision that manufactured housing retailers and sellers did not need to be loan originators was included in S. 2155, the "Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act," which was signed into law by President Trump.



*Hunter Kurtz being sworn in by HUD Secretary
Ben Carson*

In his new position as Assistant Secretary of Public and Indian Housing, Hunter Kurtz will oversee the Office whose role is to ensure safe, decent, and affordable housing and create opportunities for residents' self-sufficiency and economic independence. Prior to assuming this position, Kurtz served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Programs at HUD.

Kurtz has years of experience in the field of housing and community development, including previously serving at HUD in the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations and the Office of Community Planning and Development. Kurtz began his career at HUD in 2006 in the Office of Community Planning and

Development and in 2009 worked as a community planning and development specialist at the Department until 2015 when he became the Deputy Director of the Department of Housing and Revitalization for the City of Detroit.

MHI congratulates both appointees on their new roles and looks forward to working with them to ensure that manufactured housing is an integral part of HUD's efforts to support unsubsidized, attainable homeownership opportunities.

If you have any questions, please contact MHI's Government Affairs Department at MHIgov@mfghome.org.