

MHI NEWS & UPDATES

November 15, 2017

Nominee for FHA Commissioner Commits to Rigorous Review of Role for Manufactured Housing at HUD

On October 26, 2017, the Senate Banking Committee conducted a hearing on the nomination of the Honorable Brian Montgomery to be Assistant Secretary for Housing – Federal Housing Commissioner at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Mr. Montgomery previously served in these positions from 2005 to mid-2009 under the George W. Bush administration. MHI worked closely with then-FHA Commissioner Montgomery on manufactured housing issues, and has maintained a working relationship with him during his current tenure as vice-chairman of the Collingwood Group, a housing finance consulting firm he co-founded. MHI signed a housing group coalition letter to the Senate Banking Committee in support of Montgomery's nomination.

In preparation for Mr. Montgomery's confirmation hearing, MHI worked with members of the Senate Banking Committee to highlight the importance of manufactured housing and ask that he ensure HUD embraces manufactured homes as a critical source of affordable housing. As a result of this outreach, Senator Tim Scott (R-SC), Chairman of the Housing Subcommittee, submitted questions to Mr. Montgomery about HUD's regulatory overreach of the manufactured housing industry. He asked Mr. Montgomery to state in writing his views on HUD's regulations governing manufactured housing and whether the current framework ensures affordability and access. Referencing President Trump's Executive Order requiring all federal agencies to re-examine their rules and reduce the regulatory burden on the American public, Mr. Montgomery stated, "We need to make sure FHA's manufactured housing rules undergo a rigorous cost-benefit analysis to ensure we are balancing important product safety considerations with affordability and access. If confirmed, you have my commitment this will be a priority."

This response by Mr. Montgomery, which is similar to responses given by HUD Secretary Ben Carson and Deputy Secretary Pamela Patenaude during their confirmation proceedings, reinforces MHI's ongoing and aggressive efforts with Congress and the Administration to improve the regulatory climate for manufactured housing at HUD. Due to MHI's actions, in September the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved an amendment which stopped HUD's expansion of the regulation of manufactured housing on the following actions: the regulation of garages and carports; frost free foundation requirements; and onerous new requirements for the on-site completion of construction. MHI will continue working to ensure Congress and the Administration are focused on stopping the regulatory overreach of manufactured housing by HUD.

If you have any questions, please contact MHI's Government Affairs Department at 703-229-6208 or MHIgov@mfghome.org.

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