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**From:** MHI [mailto:[info@mfghome.org](mailto:info@mfghome.org)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 7:24 PM

**Subject:** Breaking News from Washington



# HOUSING ALERT

March 10, 2021

## Breaking News from Washington

### **HUD Delays the Effective Date of Final Rule Updating the HUD Code**

HUD announced it is delaying the effective date of its final rule which amends the Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards (the HUD Code) that was published

on January 12, 2021. Originally scheduled to go into effect on March 15, 2021, HUD has extended the effective date to July 21, 2021. [Click here](#) to read the Federal Register notice.

While MHI had strongly advocated for these updates to the HUD Code, the first set of comprehensive changes in over a decade, the short implementation period within the final rule was problematic due to the impacts of COVID. HUD granted MHI's request to extend the effective date of the final rule, citing the current level of backlogs at manufactured home construction facilities as well as supply chain slowdowns. MHI is pleased that HUD agreed with our concerns and extended the effective date. MHI will continue to advocate for swift promulgation of rules to incorporate the remaining HUD Code updates that have been passed by the Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee but have not been implemented.

### **Representative Marcia Fudge Confirmed as HUD Secretary**

The U.S. Senate confirmed Representative Marcia Fudge as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

During her confirmation hearing before the Senate Banking Committee, MH worked with Senators from both sides of the aisle to include manufactured housing as a key topic of discussion. MHI also met with Fudge to discuss the role that manufactured housing serves in addressing the affordable housing shortage in the country and encouraging her to ensure HUD facilitates the availability of manufactured housing for all Americans, as required by law.

As a result of these efforts, during her testimony before the Committee, Fudge called manufactured housing an "outstanding option," and she touted its affordability and efficiency. She told the Senate Committee that she is "100% supportive" of looking at incorporating manufactured housing into the Department's affordable housing strategies.

Fudge also told the Committee that addressing exclusionary zoning is a priority. She testified that "we have to get rid of the idea of "Not in my Backyard." While acknowledging as a former mayor that this will be difficult, she discussed the need to find incentives for home builders to work with HUD and local lawmakers to change zoning laws.

[Click here](#) to view MHI's letter of support for Secretary Fudge.

[Click here](#) to view an exchange between Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) and HUD Secretary Fudge about manufactured housing.

### **Congressional Hearing Highlights Local Regulatory Barriers to Manufactured Housing**

At a House Financial Services Committee hearing titled "Achieving Racial Equity Through Fair Access to Housing and Financial Services," MHI worked with Representatives from both sides of the aisle to demonstrate the opportunity the federal government has to address racial equity by taking actions that support the availability and placement of manufactured homes in communities across America.

Representative John Rose (R-TN), a champion of manufactured housing, discussed legislation that was passed into law requiring localities to consider manufactured housing as a part of their comprehensive housing affordability strategies and community development plans. Asking the witnesses if they agreed that manufactured housing should be considered as communities develop strategies to address their affordable housing challenges, Paulina Gonzalez-Brito, Executive Director of the California Reinvestment Coalition, supported his statement saying, "I think it is an important part of fair housing and serves often rural communities. And we should ensure there are not any local barriers to producing manufactured housing and hope that this is something that can continue to be supported by the Committee."

In advance of the hearing, *National Mortgage News*, an award-winning comprehensive digital information resource serving policymakers and the entire residential mortgage industry, published an opinion piece authored by MHI's CEO Lesli Gooch titled "Advancing Racial Equity Through Manufactured Housing." In the opinion piece, citing the federal building code and federal fair housing laws, MHI argues that the "Biden Administration — and HUD Secretary Fudge — have a great opportunity to advance their racial equity agenda by stepping up HUD actions to support manufactured housing. It is the one form of single family housing that is regulated by HUD and the law already requires HUD to "facilitate the availability of affordable manufactured homes to increase homeownership for all Americans." (42 USC 5401(b)(2)). [Click here](#) to read the opinion piece.

### **Congress Passes COVID Relief Package**

The U.S. House of Representatives has approved the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, previously passed by the Senate, with the White House announcing President Biden will sign the legislation into law on Friday. Below are some of the major provisions that were included in the final bill:

- Additional recovery rebates up to \$1,400 per taxpayer. Single taxpayers earning up to \$75,000 and married couples earning up to \$150,000 will be eligible for the full amount. However, the rebates will disappear for individuals earning more than \$80,000 annually and couples earning more than \$160,000.
- Rental Aid. \$27.5 billion for emergency rental aid of which \$21.5 billion is allocated for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.
- Homeowner assistance. \$10 billion for homeowner assistance efforts, including direct relief with mortgage payments, small 1-4 rental unit properties, property tax payments and utility costs.
- Extension of unemployment benefits. The existing \$300 weekly federal unemployment benefits that were due to expire on March 14 will be extended through Sept. 6. The first \$10,200 of unemployment benefits will be tax-free for households earning less than \$150,000.
- Child Tax Credit expansion. For 2021, the Child Tax Credit will be fully refundable, and the credit will be increased to \$3,000 per eligible child, or \$3,600 for children under the age of six. In addition, for 2021, 17-year-old children would be eligible.
- Paid medical and sick leave credits. Employers offering their employees COVID-related paid medical and sick leave would be eligible for an expanded tax credit through Sept. 30.
- Employee Retention Tax Credit. Eligible employers would be able to claim this credit through the end of 2021.
- Additional aid for small businesses. The legislation provides an additional \$7.25 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

If you have any questions, please contact MHI's Advocacy and Communications Department at [MHIgov@mfghome.org](mailto:MHIgov@mfghome.org) or 703-558-0675.

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Note that *MHProNews* conducted a Word search on the above which produced the following results, shown below. Not one word about the DOE or the looming threat of energy standards that could prove harmful to manufactured housing independents and large numbers of consumers who could get ["priced out" of affordable housing due to such standards, per NAHB research](#).

## Navigation

DOE

No matches

## Navigation

energy

No matches

This should be read in the light of the specific article linked below, where this is attached as a download.

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/prophetic-words-by-industry-pros-manufactured-home-factories-retailers-communities-regulatory-financing-trends-swot>

That noted, other relevant articles are linked below.

<https://www.manufacturedhomelivingnews.com/machine-of-human-suffering-berkshire-hathaways-clayton-homes-manufactured-housing-institute-attorneys-response-to-allegations-felony-abuses-knudson-law/>

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/scientific-method-state-exec-how-manufactured-housing-independents-interests-threatened-by-clayton-homes-attrition-smoking-guns-and-bread-crumbs-3-s/>

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/bombshell-buffett-berkshire-clayton-homes-21st-vanderbilt-specific-mhi-members-ripped-felony-monopolization-of-the-american-manufactured-home-industry/>

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/manufactured-housing-2020-production-shipment-annual-totals-manufactured-housing-institute-and-manufactured-housing-association-for-regulatory-reform-mharr-reports-compared-data-analysis/>

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/foot-dragging-rigged-system-manufactured-housing-lending-comments-to-feds-by-various-professionals/>

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