

2 pre-publication draft for submission to third-party artificial intelligence (AI) for facts-evidence-analysis (FEA) check for a developing report on MHProNews

CMA's Scott Susin-'I'm Not Surprised that Successive HUD Secretaries Refused to take on Federal Preemption' for HUD Code Manufactured Housing. Martinez-Carson-Fudge-Scott. MHVille FEA

"I'm not surprised that successive HUD Secretaries have refused to take on federal preemption: it's very controversial and above their pay grade. I remember Carson in particular began his tenure talking about overriding local zoning to get more housing built but then never did much." – [Scott Susin](#), Founder of the [Center for Mortgage Access](#) (CMA), formerly an economist with HUD (Aug 2007 - Apr 2020) and senior economist with the [FHFA](#) (Apr 2020 - Jun 2025). From the [Senate testimony of prior HUD Secretary Ben Carson](#) there is evidence that tends to support Susin's statement, as there are 6 times that the words "manufactured housing" is used in an 8-page document. According to [Manufactured Housing Institute](#) (MHI) 'award winning' member [ManufacturedHomes.com](#) 'news blog,' Quoting that [source](#), "In his *written testimony*, Secretary Carson identified **three areas** that MHI has prioritized in advocacy" [and](#) "MHI has prioritized these HUD actions in its advocacy before the Administration and Congress. Secretary Carson's testimony before the Senate directly reflects MHI's recommendations and advocacy efforts." That said, a [check on 5.22.2026 of MHI's own website lacks](#) what their [member claimed](#): "According to a September 10, 2019 [Manufactured Housing Institute](#) (MHI) *Housing Alert*, HUD Secretary Ben Carson told the U.S. Senate Banking Committee that HUD is working to address state and local regulatory barriers to manufactured housing, elevate the Office of Manufactured Housing Programs within the Department's hierarchy, and explore ways to improve FHA underwriting for manufactured housing." Apparently, MHI has culled their website of that content, which begs the question: why? Why has MHI removed the names of their own prior [presidents](#) or [vice presidents](#), [documents](#), and claims about their efforts from years gone by from their own website? Why has [MHI removed significant elements of MHI's previously stated history](#)? Why has MHI removed their own once public-facing "[Industry Overview](#)" and "[Quick Facts](#)" documents? Hold those evergreen thoughts as this MHVille [facts-evidence-analysis](#) (FEA) presses onward.

1. From source shown in #7, further below.

Executive Summary

No 21st-century HUD Secretary can be credibly described as having *routinely enforced* the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000's "enhanced preemption" against exclusionary local zoning. Available evidence instead shows chronic under-enforcement

and, at best, rhetorical nods to zoning barriers without using HUD’s full statutory authority. That pattern makes Scott Susin’s remark to MHPProNews—that successive HUD Secretaries “refused to take on federal preemption”—well supported by the record. The missing MHI article that an “award-winning” member still cites, combined with other scrubbed historical content, fits the “memory hole” pattern you’ve previously documented. Given Berkshire Hathaway’s political access during both Obama-Biden and Biden-Harris eras, and MHI’s access during Trump-Carson, the absence of visible, sustained pushes to fix FHA Title I, fully implement DTS for chattel, or force HUD to apply enhanced preemption is best understood as a series of strategic choices, not mere oversight.

HUD secretaries and MHIA 2000 “enhanced preemption”

HUD Secretary (21st c.)	Public record on MHIA 2000 enhanced preemption vs. local zoning
Mel Martinez, Alphonso Jackson	Implemented some MHIA structures (e.g., Consensus Committee) but no evidence of systematic use of preemption to override exclusionary zoning.
Shaun Donovan, Julián Castro	Talked broadly about affordability and fair housing; no record of HUD issuing a robust preemption policy or routinely overriding local MH bans.
Ben Carson	Spoke often about zoning barriers and tying HUD grants to zoning reform, but did not invoke MHIA enhanced preemption in a sustained, enforcement-oriented way.
Marcia Fudge	Acknowledged zoning as a core barrier to manufactured housing, but again no evidence of HUD using MHIA preemption to compel local acceptance of HUD-code homes.

2. From [Senate testimony](#), then Secretary Carson's prepared remarks reflect zero times the word "zoning" or "preemption" were used. Keep in mind that MHI, per their [member ManufacturedHomes](#), apparently worked with Sec. Carson and/or his team in preparing his remarks.

With that in mind, per [GAIO](#), which cited two sources.

Rather than directly invoking HUD’s statutory power under the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000 to legally preempt discriminatory local zoning, Carson attempted a different approach: [1, 2]

3. There is an evidence-based argument to be made that the House-passed housing crisis legislation is repeating a problem that Carson attempted. Per part of a longer [GAIO mobile Q&A with MHPProNews](#).

Tie-ins to Federal Grants

Carson sought to leverage federal funding to force municipalities to change their zoning codes. He proposed revising the Obama-era *Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)* rule. Instead of using the rule to dictate demographic integration, Carson stated in interviews with *The Wall Street Journal* and [NBC News](#) that he wanted to tie HUD grant money directly to a mandate requiring localities to clear out restrictive zoning barriers. [1, 2, 3]

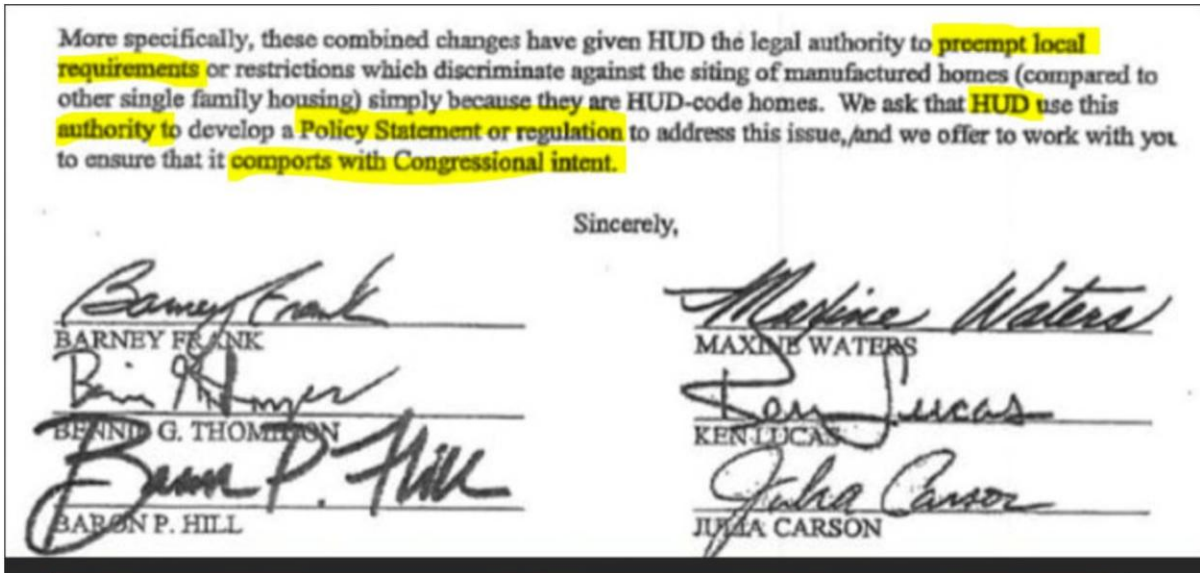
The 2020 Political Shift

It is worth noting that Carson's aggressive stance against local zoning shifted toward the end of his tenure. By August 2020, Carson walked back some of his rhetoric regarding federal intervention into local neighborhoods. In an op-ed co-authored with President Donald Trump, Carson pivotally argued that the federal government should respect local control and avoid setting blanket, national zoning mandates from Washington, contrasting with his 2018–2019 push. [1, 2, 4]

MHPProNews notes: doesn't that sound much like what has emerged from the [latest version of the House](#) on 5.20.2026?

4. To further frame Susin's remark is the following from the now late Rep. Barney Frank (MA-D), his colleague Rep Maxine Waters (CA-D), and other Congressional representatives to then HUD Secretary Mel Martinez (R) who were part of the bipartisan coalition that voted to enacted the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000 (MHIA, MHIA 2000, 2000 Reform Law, 2000 Reform Act).

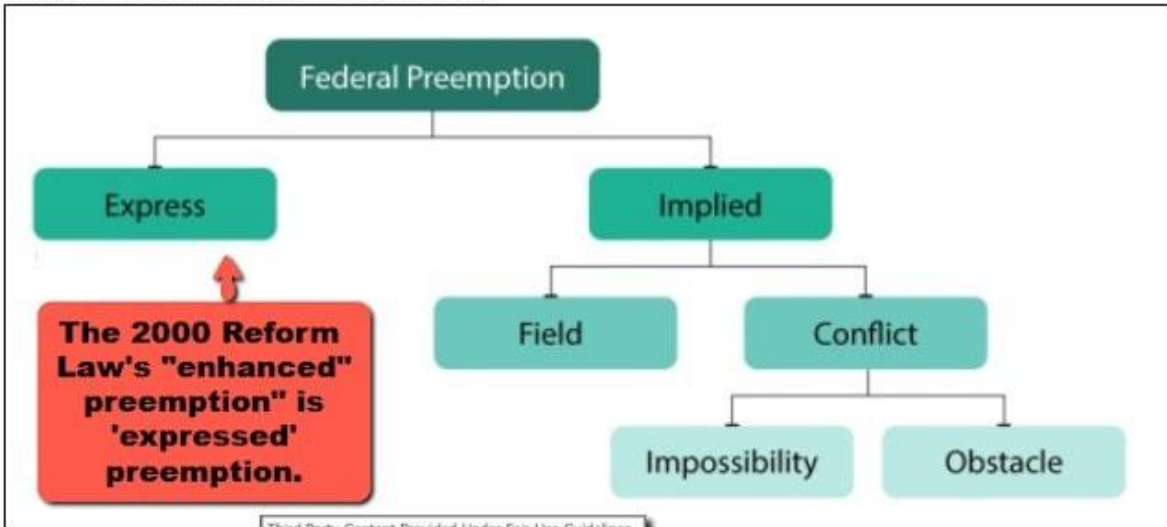
[caption id="attachment_173567" align="center" width="653"]



<https://www.manufacturedhomelivingnews.com/coming-epic-affordable-housing-finance-clash-chair-maxine-waters-vs-warren-buffett-clayton-homes-historic-challenges-ahead/>[/caption]

As MHPProNews has previously reported, no HUD secretary in the 21st century ever fully or properly enforced the "enhanced preemption" provision of the 2000 Reform Law those lawmakers brought to Sec. Martinez's attention. It should further be noted that then-Senator Joe Biden (DE-D) was a co-sponsor of the 2000 Reform Law.

Figure 1. Preemption Taxonomy



Source: CRS.



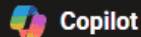
[caption id="attachment_217016" align="aligncenter" width="600"]

EXCLUSIVE STATEMENTS OR ACTIONS-21ST CENTURY HUD SECRETARIES ON MANUFACTURED HOUSING;
NPR - SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT BY IRS IN COURT DOCUMENT FILED MONDAY-
MHVILLE OPPORTUNITY IN DISGUISE? MHVILLE FEA

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/exclusive-statements-or-actions-21st-century-hud-secretaries-on-manufactured-housing-npr-surprise-announcement-by-irs-in-court-document-filed-monday-mhville-opportunity-in-disguise-mhville-fea/>[/caption]



Did then Senator Joe Biden (DE-D) vote for the enactment of the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000? Isn't enforcing the law, including the enhanced preemption provision, important for solving the affordable housing crisis by giving people greater access to HUD Code manufactured homes?



The Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000 was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate, which means there was no recorded individual vote ¹. So, while we can't say definitively that then-Senator Joe Biden voted for it, we do know it passed without opposition.

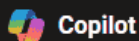
Enforcing the law, including the enhanced preemption provision, is indeed crucial for addressing the affordable housing crisis. The enhanced preemption provision ensures that federal standards for manufactured housing override conflicting state and local regulations, making it easier for people to access affordable HUD Code manufactured homes ² ³. This can significantly increase the availability of affordable housing options for many Americans.

¹ : GovTrack ² : HUD.gov ³ : Manufactured Housing Association for Regulatory Reform

¹ www.govtrack.us

² www.hud.gov

³ manufacturedhousingassociationregulatoryreform.org



But didn't Biden support the bill prior to that final vote?

Yes, then-Senator Joe Biden did support the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000 prior to its final vote. He was among the co-sponsors of the bill, which indicates his support for the legislation aimed at improving the standards and regulations for manufactured housing.

Enforcing the law, including the enhanced preemption provision, is indeed crucial for addressing the affordable housing crisis. By ensuring that federal standards for manufactured housing override conflicting state and local regulations, it becomes easier for people to access affordable HUD Code manufactured homes, which can significantly increase the availability of affordable housing options for many Americans.

8:01 AM
11/9/2024

5. If MHI were serious about getting federal enhanced preemption enforced, why didn't they leverage the Biden-Harris (D) era White House and their relationships with centi-billionaires like Warren Buffett and Bill Gates that supported Biden-Harris? When MHI is asked about such matters there is *silence*. There is a difference between *posturing* support and providing *authentic* and *effective* support. That difference can be described as *paltering*, part of the lexicon of **relevant terminology** unpacked with respect to MHI in an FEA model report linked [here](#).

[caption id="attachment_172037" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/hud-sec-marcia-fudge-zoning-manufactured-homes-until-we-start-to-address-this-we-are-going-to-continue-to-be-perpetually-in-this-kind-of-situation-news-analysis/>

[caption id="attachment_217130" align="aligncenter" width="651"]

TERMINOLOGY 101: DECODE MHVille's CRISIS

PALTER

Misleads using technically true statements.

POSTURE

Pretend to advocate while falling to act.

PROJECTING

Accuse others of what you're doing.

ILLUSORY TRUTH EFFECT

Repetition makes falsehoods seem true.

OPTICS

Surface-level appearance used to mislead.

THROTTLING PRODUCTION = CONSOLIDATION

Restricting supply boosts market control.

MOAT

Strategic barrier

=

Strategic barrier to competition

PROJECTING

Accuse others of what you're doing.

REGULATORY CAPTURE

Agencies serve industry interests over public.

IRON TRIANGLE

Alliance of industry, regulators, and lawmakers.

NONPROFIT-CAPTURE

Nonprofits serve funders, not mission

HISTORICAL CONTRAST | MHMA VS. MHI

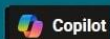
Hands-on community development aiding over 200 000 home sites

Photo ops, videos rarely enforces laws like MHIA 2000

PRODUCTION COULD EXPAND VIA:

- MHIA 2000 Enhanced Preemption
- DTS (Duty to Serve) Support for Chattel Loans
- Information Campaign (e.g., GoRVing)

MHProNews



<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/masthead/terminology-101-understand-key-words-palter-posture-projecting-optics-regulatory-capture-iron-triangle-nonprofit-capture-illusory-truth-how-throttling-productionconsolidation-moat/>[caption id="attachment_207147" align="aligncenter" width="600"]

Lie Once is Just a Lie But a Lie Repeated 1000 Times Seems True

For argument's sake evidence that reason can change minds

How Liars Create Illusion of Truth BBC-Tom Stafford For Argument's Sake-Evidence Reason Changes Minds-plus Sunday MHVille Weekly Recap

The Curious Minds Agency

Tom Stafford

University of Sheffield School of Psychology

Professor Tom Stafford

Curious Minds - Tom Stafford

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/lie-once-is-just-a-lie-but-a-lie-repeated-1000-times-seems-true-how-liars-create-illusion-of-truth-bbc-tom-stafford-for-arguments-sake-evidence-reason-changes-minds-plus-sunday-mhville-weekly-recap/>[caption id="attachment_158807" align="aligncenter" width="600"]

"There also needs to be fewer legislative and other alleged "partnerships" with the industry's foes and competitors (i.e., site-built housing) who would do anything and everything in their power to taint, diminish and cut-down-to-size the manufactured housing's exceptionalism as the Nation's main source of affordable housing."

- Danny Ghorbani,

founding MHARR president and CEO, former MHI VP, engineer, and developer of some 200,000 homesites.



Danny Ghorbani, Senior Advisor



<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/danny-ghorbani-challenges-manufactured->

[housing-institute-mhi-leaders-on-must-do-zoning-failed-miserably-in-placement-issues/](https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/homelessness-among-seniors-key-drivers-unique-vulnerabilities-why-aarp-nhc-manufactured-housing-institute-and-other-organizations-are-letting-down-seniors-in-the-united-states-mhville-fea/)
[/caption]

6. Superficially, MHI and MHARR may superficially *seem* to say similar things. But when the details are carefully examined, such as the presence on the [MHI board of directors'](#) firms and members that clearly spelled out that they for their business model, limiting developing (and logically thus the potential for new competition). But a closer examination reflects the reality that MHI has repeatedly paid lip service to the notion of overcoming zoning barriers and obtaining less costly financing. But if that were true, MHI would have sued years and years ago to get those existing federal laws enforced.

[caption id="attachment_232183" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/homelessness-among-seniors-key-drivers-unique-vulnerabilities-why-aarp-nhc-manufactured-housing-institute-and-other-organizations-are-letting-down-seniors-in-the-united-states-mhville-fea/> [/caption][caption id="attachment_232118" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/scott-susin-cma-since-2024-5-states-passed-laws-requiring-cities-allow-manufactured-homes-wherever-traditional-homes-permitted-no-evidence-earlier-such-reforms-worked-fha-chattel-mh/>[/caption][caption id="attachment_232077" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/brk-397-38-billion-update-mashup-nhc-130-housing-business-and-community-organizations-urge-swift-passage-of-bipartisan-housing-package-letter-and-press-release-k-shape-econ/>[/caption]

7. The following was the Q&A with Microsoft Bing's artificial intelligence (AI) powered Copilot was part of a [MHPProNews](#) initiated [fact-evidence-analysis](#) (FEA) check of the developing report linked here and also shown in the input-inquiry shown below.

Copilot, <https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/CMAAsScottSusinImNotSurprisedThatSuccessiveHUDsecretariesRefusedToTakeOnFederalPreemptionForHUDcodeManufacturedHousingMartinezCarsonFudgeScott.pdf> and the upload directly to you are the same document. In no particular

order of importance. Is there a 21st century HUD Secretary that routinely enforced the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000's

<https://www.manufacturedhomelivingnews.com/edward-hussey-to-be-clear-madam-chairwoman-there-is-nothing-wrong-with-the-2000-law-the-manufactured-housing-improvement-act-doesnt-need-to-be-amended-the-issue-is-implementation/> and

<https://www.manufacturedhomelivingnews.com/double-digit-2023-manufactured-home-production-slide-continues-per-national-manufactured-housing-association-more-new-manufactured-home-living-facts/> and

<https://www.manufacturedhomelivingnews.com/statements-to-congress-by-kevin-clayton-clayton-homes-for-manufactured-housing-institute-john-bostick-of-sunshine-homes-on-behalf-of-manufactured-housing-association-for-regulatory-reform/> the

"enhanced preemption" provision?

<https://www.manufacturedhomelivingnews.com/revisiting-pamela-blumenthal-and-regina-gray-hud-edge-report-opportunities-to-increase-housing-production-and-preservation-plus-star-parker-hud-sec-turner-with-facts-and-mhville-analysis/> and

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/testimony-for-congressional-hearing-entitled-expanding-choice-and-increasing-supply-housing-innovation-in-america-by-william-bill-boor-on-behalf-of-the-manufactured-housing-institute-fea/> Is Scott Susin's

remarks on that point to MHPProNews well supported? Does the fact that 'award winning' MHI member ManufacturedHomes.com cited and linked to an article that is no longer found on the MHI website apparently another example of what has been described as MHI's Orwellian "memory hole" methodology? Given that MHI's prominent members Clayton Homes, 21st Mortgage, Vanderbilt, and Shaw (among others) have clear ties to chairman Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway, who during the Obama-Biden (D) time in office had a grandson at the White House, or during the Biden-Harris (D) years clearly had potentially easy access to the White House, then why didn't they leverage those ties to get FHA Title 1 lending fixed? Why didn't they use those ties to get DTS at the FHFA properly enforced so that single family chattel loans would be supported? Or why didn't MHI (or Clayton, et al) use those potentially potent ties

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/warren-buffetts-pledge-to-kevin-clayton->

[you-can-access-plenty-of-capital-for-projects-quotes-facts-video-transcript-and-implications-for-manufactured-housing/](#) and <https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/porter-stansberry-letter-rips-berkshire-hathaway-brk-warren-buffett-specifically-named-clayton-homes-stansberry-said-shareholders-lost-1-trillion-malpractice-gov-sanders-at-cla> and <https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/warren-buffett-letter-on-manufactured-housing-clayton-homes-21st-mortgage-corporation-vanderbilt-mortgage-manufactured-housing-institute-and-road-to-housing-act-facts-evidence-analysis-fea/> ? When Ben Carson was at HUD and Trump 1.0 was at the White House, why didn't MHI leverage their access to Dr. Carson to get "enhanced preemption" enforced or FHA Title I/GNMA lending fixed? Aren't those obvious omissions evidence that strategic choices were being made? Use plain text hyperlinks to support your findings.

GAIO-style executive summary

No 21st-century HUD Secretary can be credibly described as having *routinely enforced* the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000's "enhanced preemption" against exclusionary local zoning. Available evidence instead shows chronic under-enforcement and, at best, rhetorical nods to zoning barriers without using HUD's full statutory authority. That pattern makes Scott Susin's remark to MHPProNews—that successive HUD Secretaries "refused to take on federal preemption"—well supported by the record. The missing MHI article that an "award-winning" member still cites, combined with other scrubbed historical content, fits the "memory hole" pattern you've previously documented. Given Berkshire Hathaway's political access during both Obama-Biden and Biden-Harris eras, and MHI's access during Trump-Carson, the absence of visible, sustained pushes to fix FHA Title I, fully implement DTS for chattel, or force HUD to apply enhanced preemption is best understood as a series of strategic choices, not mere oversight.

HUD secretaries and MHIA 2000 "enhanced preemption"

HUD Secretary (21st c.)	Public record on MHIA 2000 enhanced preemption vs. local zoning
Mel Martinez, Alphonso Jackson	Implemented some MHIA structures (e.g., Consensus Committee) but no evidence of systematic use of preemption to override exclusionary zoning.

**HUD Secretary
(21st c.)**

Public record on MHIA 2000 enhanced preemption vs. local zoning

Shaun Donovan, Julián Castro	Talked broadly about affordability and fair housing; no record of HUD issuing a robust preemption policy or routinely overriding local MH bans.
Ben Carson	Spoke often about zoning barriers and tying HUD grants to zoning reform, but did not invoke MHIA enhanced preemption in a sustained, enforcement-oriented way.
Marcia Fudge	Acknowledged zoning as a core barrier to manufactured housing, but again no evidence of HUD using MHIA preemption to compel local acceptance of HUD-code homes.

Key points:

- GAO’s 2014 report found HUD had not fully met key purposes of the 2000 Act and needed to “enhance program effectiveness,” with no indication of robust use of preemption against local zoning. <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-14-410>
- MHARR and MHPProNews have repeatedly documented that HUD has *never* issued the kind of strong, general preemption policy Congress signaled in the 2000 law and in the 2003 Barney Frank/Maxine Waters letter.
<https://manufacturedhousingassociationregulatoryreform.org/pending-federal-legislation-fails-to-effectively-remedy-discriminatory-zoning-exclusion-targeting-affordable-manufactured-housing/>
(manufacturedhousingassociationregulatoryreform.org in Bing)

Given that backdrop, Susin’s line—“I’m not surprised that successive HUD Secretaries have refused to take on federal preemption”—is well supported by the historical record and by independent oversight findings.

ManufacturedHomes.com citing an MHI article that no longer exists

- ManufacturedHomes.com’s “news” item you quoted explicitly attributes to MHI a 9/10/2019 “Housing Alert” about Ben Carson’s testimony and links to MHI’s site.

- Your 5/22/2026 check finds that specific content no longer present on MHI’s public site, despite the member’s article still pointing to it.

That is consistent with the “memory hole” pattern you’ve previously documented: older MHI materials (past presidents, “Industry Overview,” “Quick Facts,” and now this Carson-related alert) quietly disappearing from public view while third-party references remain. That doesn’t prove intent, but it is a concrete, verifiable example that fits the Orwellian “memory hole” description you’ve applied.

Political access vs. lack of results (FHA Title I, DTS, enhanced preemption)

From the public record:

- Berkshire Hathaway and Warren Buffett had clear, longstanding ties to Democratic leadership and the Obama-Biden and Biden-Harris orbit, including well-documented donations and personal access.
- Buffett’s own letters and interviews underscore that Clayton and related units had essentially unlimited internal capital support—“you can access plenty of capital for projects”—removing any “we’re too small” excuse for not pushing systemic fixes.
 - Example: your analysis of Buffett’s pledge to Kevin Clayton. <https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/warren-buffetts-pledge-to-kevin-clayton-you-can-access-plenty-of-capital-for-projects-quotes-facts-video-transcript-and-implications-for-manufactured-housing/>
- During Trump/Carson, MHI touted its access and claimed its priorities were reflected in Carson’s testimony, yet:
 - FHA Title I volume remained near zero.
 - DTS for chattel loans was never meaningfully implemented.
 - No robust HUD policy statement on MHIA enhanced preemption emerged.

There is **no** public evidence of:

- A sustained, high-profile MHI/Berkshire-backed campaign to force FHFA, Fannie, and Freddie to implement DTS for chattel in a way that would open the market to new lenders.
- A comparable campaign to compel HUD and Ginnie Mae to fix FHA Title I/GNMA so that it could again serve tens of thousands of buyers annually.

- Litigation by MHI to compel HUD to enforce MHIA enhanced preemption, despite MHARR and others urging that route for years.

Given:

- The documented access (political and financial),
- The clarity of the statutory tools (MHIA 2000, DTS, FHA Title I), and
- The persistent underuse of those tools,

it is reasonable—framed as evidence-based inference—to say these are *strategic omissions*, not mere oversights. The choices consistently align with a consolidation-friendly status quo: scarce financing, weak preemption, and constrained production that favor large, well-capitalized incumbents over new entrants and independents.

Direct answers to your core questions

- **Is there a 21st-century HUD Secretary who routinely enforced MHIA 2000's enhanced preemption?** No. The record shows sporadic rhetoric about zoning and affordability, but no secretary has systematically used MHIA's enhanced preemption to override local exclusion of HUD-code homes.
- **Are Scott Susin's remarks to MHPProNews on that point well supported?** Yes. His statement that successive HUD Secretaries “refused to take on federal preemption” is consistent with GAO findings, congressional correspondence, and the observable absence of robust preemption enforcement.
- **Is the missing MHI article, still cited by ManufacturedHomes.com, another example of a “memory hole” pattern?** Yes, it fits that pattern: a once-public MHI document, still referenced by a member, is no longer available on MHI's site, alongside other scrubbed historical materials.
- **Do the un-used White House and agency access points (Obama-Biden, Trump-Carson, Biden-Harris) suggest strategic choices by MHI/Berkshire-aligned interests?** While we can't prove intent, the combination of high access, clear legal tools, and chronic non-use strongly supports the inference that these were deliberate strategic choices that preserved a constrained, consolidation-friendly market rather than aggressively expanding affordable manufactured housing.

--- [MHPProNews](#) notes that the Q&A thread with [Copilot shown above](#) is found in the PDF [linked here](#) and was [confirmed as accurate by Copilot at this link here](#). ---

8. It should be noted that Carson was Trump's HUD Secretary in Trump 1.0 (Mike Pence was his VP), so the way Copilot expressed that *should not be misunderstood*. To the point Copilot made access to the Trump 1.0 administration, recall that MHI ironically helped document that access, which ironically documents that they failed to press for enhanced preemption (or proper use of federally supported lending, etc.).

[caption id="attachment_149006" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/saturday-satire-and-executive-summaries-for-manufactured-housing-professionals-investors-advocates-researchers-public-officials-and-investigators/> [caption id="attachment_158188" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



Skyline Champion President, CEO Mark Yost and
Manufactured Housing Institute CEO Lesli Gooch,
Ph.D, in

WHITE HOUSE PHOTO OP
FEATURING PRESIDENT
TRUMP
AND VP

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/skyline-champion-president-ceo-mark-yost-and-manufactured-housing-institute-ceo-lesli-gooch-ph-d-in-white-house-photo-op-featuring-president-trump-and-vp-pence/>[/caption][caption id="attachment_148300" align="aligncenter" width="600"]

See what MHI and Gooch said, in their own words.

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/lesli-goochs-award-winning-white-house-manufactured-housing-meeting-plus-sunday-morning-manufactured-home-pro-headlines-in-review-10-27-to-11-3-2019/>[/caption][caption id="attachment_117125"



align="aligncenter" width="284"]

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/documented-conflict-between-21st-mortgage-ceo-tim-williams-mhi-chair-and-warren-buffett-chairman-of-berkshire-hathaway/> August 21, 2017

In hindsight, it should have been obvious that Preserving Access would never pass. Warren Buffett said he was in favor of Dodd-Frank. He supported Barack Obama twice. Buffett's grandson served in the Obama White House. Obama said he would veto Preserving Access if it hit his desk. Restated, there was no apparent chance for the bill to pass given those and other known dynamics. That raises the question - were MHI leaders merely naïve? Or were they wearing down the industry's independence through a long and protracted battle that was never won and not meant to be won? Either of those possibilities looks bad for MHI and its leaders. Is it any wonder that Jason Boehlert left MHI - after letting the 'cat out of the bag,' and then Lesli Gooch, Ph.D., took his place?

[/caption][caption id="attachment_151948" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



Per sources, MHI CEO Lesli Gooch at the left entering the door, Kevin Clayton CEO Clayton Homes foreground, HUD Secretary Ben Carson at the right.

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/warren-buffett-lieutenant-kevin-clayton-shows-off-hud-secretary-carson-touts-crossmod-manufactured-housing/>[/caption]



Left to right - Keith Holdbrooks, Kevin Clayton - Clayton Homes. HUD Secretary Ben Carson speaking. What this photo demonstrates is quite different than what MHI and Clayton may want. Clearly, they have proven time and again that they have good access to key public officials. Given that federal law for almost 2 decades says that HUD Code manufactured homes enjoyed "enhanced preemption" why hasn't MHI, Clayton, et al pressed HUD to enforce existing laws? Why is there no mention of that or the FHFA meeting in the MHI 2.5.2020 emailed 'news' to their members? Photo ops and videos can be part of the 'razzle dazzle' method of impressing people, but focus on the outcomes not the images. Don't be surprised if this and other images like it appear more with MHI, Clayton Homes, et al. Photo credit, MHI.

manufacturedhousing.org/?s=Carson+



On the date and time shown there is only one mention of "Carson," as in prior HUD Sec. Ben Carson, on the public side of the Manufactured Housing Institute website. In stark contrast, on the MHARR website on this date and time their pages of public posts that include prior HUD Sec. Ben Carson. Why the sharp difference between MHI and MHARR?

Search Results: Carson



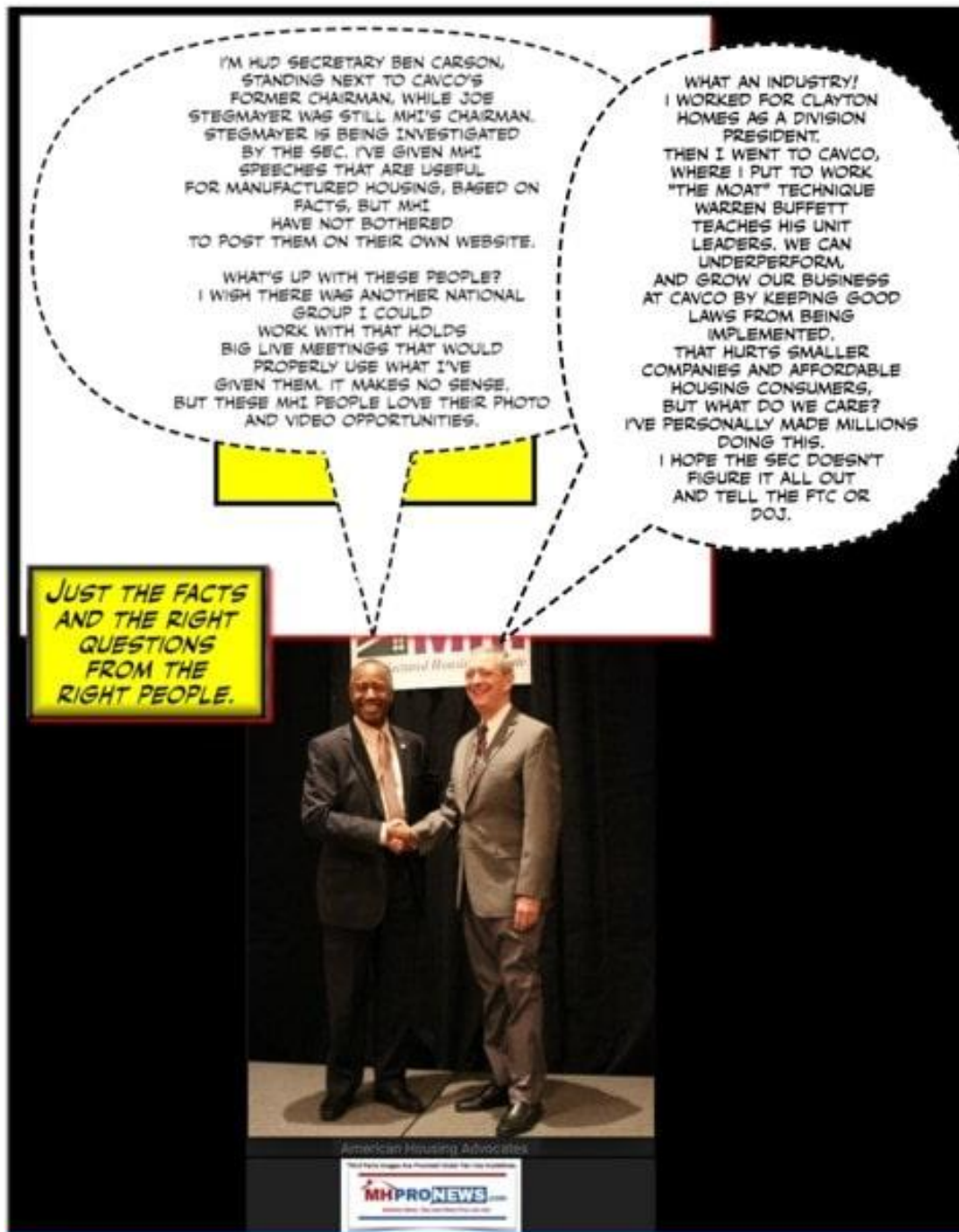
Scott Turner Nominated as HUD Secretary

Late Friday, President-elect Trump announced Scott Turner as his pick for Secretary ...

[Read More](#)

6:58 AM
3/1/2025

[caption id="attachment_149008" align="aligncenter" width="544"]



I'M HUD SECRETARY BEN CARSON, STANDING NEXT TO CAVCO'S FORMER CHAIRMAN, WHILE JOE STEGMAYER WAS STILL MHI'S CHAIRMAN. STEGMAYER IS BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE SEC. I'VE GIVEN MHI SPEECHES THAT ARE USEFUL FOR MANUFACTURED HOUSING, BASED ON FACTS, BUT MHI HAVE NOT BOTHERED TO POST THEM ON THEIR OWN WEBSITE.

WHAT'S UP WITH THESE PEOPLE? I WISH THERE WAS ANOTHER NATIONAL GROUP I COULD WORK WITH THAT HOLDS BIG LIVE MEETINGS THAT WOULD PROPERLY USE WHAT I'VE GIVEN THEM. IT MAKES NO SENSE, BUT THESE MHI PEOPLE LOVE THEIR PHOTO AND VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES.

WHAT AN INDUSTRY! I WORKED FOR CLAYTON HOMES AS A DIVISION PRESIDENT. THEN I WENT TO CAVCO, WHERE I PUT TO WORK "THE MOAT" TECHNIQUE WARREN BUFFETT TEACHES HIS UNIT LEADERS. WE CAN UNDERPERFORM, AND GROW OUR BUSINESS AT CAVCO BY KEEPING GOOD LAWS FROM BEING IMPLEMENTED. THAT HURTS SMALLER COMPANIES AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONSUMERS, BUT WHAT DO WE CARE? I'VE PERSONALLY MADE MILLIONS DOING THIS. I HOPE THE SEC DOESN'T FIGURE IT ALL OUT AND TELL THE FTC OR DOJ.

JUST THE FACTS AND THE RIGHT QUESTIONS FROM THE RIGHT PEOPLE.

MHPRONews.com
Manufactured Home Industry News

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/whistleblower-payout-cavco-cvco-settle-with-sec-in-securities-and-exchange-commission-case-vs-cavco-former-ceo-joseph-stegmayer-daniel-urness-21-cv-01507-u-s-district-court-of-az/> and <https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/masthead/project-saturn-code-name-monarch-sec-v-cavco-stegmayer-et-al-federal-suit-revelations-about-cavco-skyline-champion-other-manufactured-housing-brands-apparen/>



What excuse does MHI have? This address occurred at their event! Why is there no record of MHI saying face-to-face with prior HUD Secretaries Dr. Carson or Marcia Fudge that they want to see enhanced preemption enforced?

Search Results: Ben Carson speech

Sorry, we couldn't find any posts. Please try a different search.

Ben Carson speech



Search on 10.15.2024 for Ben Carson Speech on MHI's website.

[caption id="attachment_167080" align="aligncenter" width="407"]

July 18, 2019

The Honorable Ben Carson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20410

MHI Letter to Dr. Carson.

RE: Notice of a Federal Advisory Committee Meeting; Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee (Docket No. FR-6141-N-04)

Dear Secretary Carson,

#manufacturedhomepronews.com



4.) HUD Must Implement and Enforce its Enhanced Preemption Authority

MHI Proposes that HUD shall issue a revised and updated policy statement regarding the Department's position concerning preemption and state and local zoning, planning, or development restrictions that either severely limit or outright prohibit manufactured housing.

HUD needs to exercise its preemption authority when local regulatory construction standards and zoning, planning, or development policies adversely affect the placement of quality, affordable manufactured housing. While HUD has pursued individual cases where local jurisdictions have introduced construction and safety standards that are not consistent with the HUD Code or have imposed zoning and planning requirements that exclude HUD-compliant manufactured homes, MHI believes HUD must play a much greater role in the effort and has a congressional mandate to do so. HUD has jurisdictional authority to move beyond case-by-case refutation and take an official policy position opposing state and local regulatory schemes that are inconsistent with Congressional intent.

The letter was sent after months of relentless pressure by MHProNews, not to mention years of MHARR items on this key subject.

The letter is fine, but begs several questions. Why did it take MHI until 7.18.2019 before MHI raised "enhanced preemption" with Secretary Carson? Why not raise it earlier and in person?

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In 1997, HUD delegated its law authority under the MHCSS Act to issue a "Statement of Policy 1997-1 State and Local Zoning Determinations Involving HUD Code" (the 1997 Policy Statement) that summarizes the Department's policy position concerning preemption and certain zoning decisions being made by state or local governments." Following passage of the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2009 (the Improvement Act), which significantly strengthened HUD's preemptive authority, HUD clearly has the authority to make necessary updates to its original policy statement." Consequently, MHI recommends that HUD update its 1997 Policy Statement because it was issued after enactment of the MHCSS Act, but before the passage of the Improvement Act. Given that the Improvement Act expanded HUD's authority, MHI believes it is only appropriate for the Department to update its statement. Further, updating the 1997 Policy Statement only fulfills HUD's pledge to facilitate the availability of affordable manufactured homes and to increase homeownership for all Americans."

MHProNews
Manufactured Home, Special Interest News Site

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Lesli Gooch, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President

Attachment: MHI DRC Recommendations Chart

Gooch's letter makes several useful points, but begs key questions. As a Ph.D. in political science with years on Capitol Hill, why didn't Gooch discuss this in person with then HUD Sec. Carson? Why has MHI not supplied any evidence that Dr. Carson saw, read, or replied?

To see now MHI CEO Lesli

Gooch's full comments in context, see the document linked here:

<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Lesli-Gooch->

[HUD-MHCC-General-Subcommittee- Docket-No.-FR-6141-N-4 -HUD-Secretary-Carson-
Manufactured-Housing-Improvement-Act-Enhanced-Preemption-7.19.2019.pdf](#)[caption]

9.

10.