

MHARR Analysis: ‘Manufactured Housing Institute Snatches Defeat from Jaws of Victory Through 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act’ plus MHI 'Hijacked' and ‘Corrupted’ MHCC Process. MHVille FEA

In an exclusive message to *MHProNews*, Mark Weiss, J.D. [responded to an inquiry](#) about the authenticity of the Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI) document linked [here](#). [MHI leadership would not confirm, nor deny](#), the authenticity of that [tipster-provided document](#). Per Weiss, President and CEO of the Manufactured Housing Association for Regulatory Reform (MHARR) was the following on the record [statement](#). "Yes, I did attend the July 23, 2026 MHCC "virtual" meeting. The document you sent appears to be the same as the one provided to me by a recipient prior to the meeting. My understanding is that the MHI comments, although submitted after the July 13, 2026 comment deadline, was distributed to MHCC members." According to the [Federal Register notice here](#) was the following.

Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting; Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee (MHCC)

A Notice by the [Housing and Urban Development Department](#) on [07/08/2026](#)

Department of Housing and Urban Development

1. [Docket No. FR-6549-N-03]

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Jo Houton, Administrator, Office of Manufactured Housing Programs, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 9166, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 708-6423 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Notice of these meetings is provided in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and implementing regulations. [5 U.S.C. 1009\(a\)\(2\)](#), [41 CFR 102-3.150](#). The Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee (MHCC) was established by the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974. Public Law 93-383, 88 Stat. 633, codified at [42 U.S.C. 5401](#) et seq. This Act was later amended by the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000 ([Pub. L. 106-569](#), 114 Stat. 2944). Under [42 U.S.C. 5403](#), the purposes of the MHCC are to:

- (1) Provide periodic recommendations to the Secretary to adopt, revise, and interpret the Federal manufactured housing construction and safety standards in accordance with subsection 5403(a);

(2) Provide periodic recommendations to the Secretary to adopt, revise, and interpret the procedural and enforcement regulations, including regulations specifying the permissible scope and conduct of monitoring, in accordance with subsection 5403(b); and

(3) Be organized and carry out its business in a manner that guarantees a fair opportunity for the expression and consideration of various positions and for public participation. The MHCC is deemed an advisory committee not composed of Federal employees.

Public Comment

Interested parties wishing to make comments on the business of the MHCC are encouraged to register by or before Monday, July 13, 2026, by contacting HUD's Administering Organization for the MHCC (AO), Home Innovation Research Labs; Attention: Kevin Kauffman, 400 Prince Georges Blvd., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774, or email to mhcc@homeinnovation.com or call 1-888-602-4663. Written comments should be submitted on or before Monday, July 13, 2026, to give MHCC members an opportunity to review the comments and come prepared to the meeting. Timely submission of comments will allow adequate opportunity to consider stakeholder input and help facilitate meaningful discussions. The MHCC strives to accommodate citizen comments to the extent possible within the time constraints of the meeting agenda. Advance registration is strongly encouraged. The MHCC will provide an opportunity for public comments on specific matters before the MHCC.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Manufactured Housing Programs, is providing an opportunity for the MHCC to discuss proposed updates to the Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards regarding energy conservation. The input will help HUD further refine certain aspects of the energy conservation standards for manufactured housing, as well as the supporting technical analysis, including anticipated costs and benefits. HUD is scheduling this meeting with the MHCC to allow robust discussion, analysis, and consideration as the committee is responsible for providing recommendations to the Secretary for the purposes of proceeding with changes to the standards. This meeting is scheduled for one day to provide sufficient time for thorough consideration and collection of MHCC recommendations. HUD, therefore, strongly encourages active participation by committee members, stakeholders, and other interested parties.

Tentative Agenda for July 23, 2026

(1) Call to Order—MHCC Chair & *Mary Jo Houton*, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

(2) Roll Call—AO

- (3) Opening Remarks—MHCC Chair & DFO
- (4) Introductions;
 - (a) MHCC Members;
 - (b) HUD Staff; and
 - (c) Guests.
- (5) Administrative Announcements—DFO & AO
- (6) Public Comment Period—15 minutes
- (7) Review the Energy Conservation Standards for Manufactured Housing
- (8) Public Comment Period—15 minutes
- (9) Wrap Up—DFO & AO
- (10) Adjourn

The [Federal Register notice for the above is found at this link here.](#)

2. The comments letter submitted by L.A. "Tony" Kovach on that topic is [linked here](#) and was published below as well.

[caption id="attachment_234662" align="aligncenter" width="600"]

From the Desk of L. A. "Tony" Kovach

HUD REGULATORY COMMENTS FOR MANUFACTURED HOUSING

CONSENSUS COMMITTEE (MHCC) MEETING

**Energy Conservation Standards
for Manufactured Housing**

JULY 23, 2026

mhcc@homeinnovation.com

**OFFICIAL COMMENTS
TO THE MHCC
ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS
FOR MANUFACTURED HOUSING**

**HUD
U.S. Department of
Housing and
Urban Development**

**TRUTH.
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<https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/hud-regulatory-comments-for-manufactured-housing-consensus-committee-mhcc-meeting-july-23-2026-energy->

[conservation-standards-for-manufactured-housing-fea-mhcchomeinnovation-com/](https://manufacturedhousingassociationregulatoryreform.org/mharr-calls-on-manufactured-housing-consensus-committee-mhcc-to-shelve-any-new-or-further-manufactured-housing-energy-standards/)[/caption]

3. With that backdrop is the following from the media release by [MHARR at this link here](#) and which is also posted below. MHARR previously posted their comments letter to the MHCC, which is found [here](#).

[caption id="attachment_234931" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



<https://manufacturedhousingassociationregulatoryreform.org/mharr-calls-on-manufactured-housing-consensus-committee-mhcc-to-shelve-any-new-or-further-manufactured-housing-energy-standards/>[/caption]

4. This [MHProNews facts-evidence-analysis](#) (FEA) is well underway.

FEA

FACTS-EVIDENCE-
ANALYSIS

“Analytical journalism is the highest style of journalism.” - Diana Dutsyk

... the personal courage of the journalist is important, he should not be afraid to go against the bosses, should not call white black. He [the analytical journalist] cannot distort the truth.



FACTS



EVIDENCE



ANALYSIS



Part I. From the MHARR news item found [here](#) and provided by MHProNews with permission.

JULY 27, 2026

TO: HUD CODE MANUFACTURED HOUSING INDUSTRY MEMBERS

FROM: MHARR

RE: MHI / ROAD ACT SNATCH DEFEAT FROM JAWS OF VICTORY

REGARDING MANUFACTURED HOUSING ENERGY STANDARDS

Urged on by the Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI) in order to comply with a supposed requirement of the MHI-supported 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act (ROAD Act) – which

became law without the signature of President Trump on July 11, 2026 – the Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee (MHCC), at a hastily-called July 23, 2026 “virtual” meeting, voted to recommend to HUD, without significant change and with no consideration of present-day cost or anti-competitive impacts, recommendations for manufactured home “energy conservation” standards first developed by the MHCC in 2022 under the gun of the then-looming May 31, 2022 draconian U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) manufactured housing “energy conservation” standards.

While the ROAD Act, to some degree (although not completely), abated the immediate threat of the May 31, 2022 DOE standards by providing that any energy efficiency standards for manufactured homes adopted by a federal agency other than HUD can have no legal effect “unless and until adopted by HUD,” the same law inexplicably requires HUD to “not later than 1 year after enactment of” the ROAD Act, “adopt minimum energy efficiency standards for manufactured homes” and, further, to “update those standards” no “less frequently than once every 3 years” thereafter. Why MHI – as an erstwhile “industry” organization --would have supported such a foreseeably costly and discriminatory mandate, singling out manufactured homes for disproportionately harsh regulation compared to other types of homes, is utterly inexplicable on any legitimate grounds.

Nevertheless, based on this ROAD Act provision, MHI, at the meeting, pushed the MHCC and HUD to move forward with the 2022 MHCC recommendations. Those recommendations, developed essentially as an alternative to the horrific DOE standards, nevertheless incorporate, in multiple provisions, elements of the DOE “final” manufactured housing energy standards, and were approved by the MHCC with no specific, evidence-based analysis or consideration of their likely cost and market impacts.

Worse yet, the July 23, 2026 vote to advance those standards to HUD also came with no consideration whatsoever of their **present-day** consumer purchase price or market impacts, contrary to the **express mandate of the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000, that both HUD AND THE MHCC** consider the cost impact of any recommended standard.

MHARR at the meeting and in written comments filed in advance of the meeting, strenuously opposed the summary bootstrapping of the 2022 standards developed by the MHCC under duress and instead urged the MHCC to revisit the energy standards issue from the “ground up” -- free from the threat of the looming disastrous DOE standards, **and to conduct a full cost-benefit analysis of any new or further standards that it recommended**.

MHARR made this recommendation in light of Executive Order 14394, “Removing Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Home Construction,” issued by President Trump in March 2026 (EO). That EO directs the Secretary of HUD and the Secretary of Energy to, among other things, “reform and, where appropriate, **eliminate** unduly burdensome or costly energy-efficiency ... requirements regarding housing, including manufactured housing. *** Such action shall include ... the Energy Conservation Program’s Energy Conservation Standards for Manufactured Housing.” (Emphasis added).

MHARR asserted in its written comments and in verbal statements at the meeting, that the Committee should not be considering any new or further energy standards that would increase the acquisition cost of manufactured homes, particularly at a time when the nation faces an unprecedented shortage of affordable new homes.

MHI, by contrast, urged the Committee to effectively rubber-stamp the 2022 MHCC recommendations made under the threat and duress of a truly destructive DOE “final” energy standard, with no further consideration of either **present-day** cost impacts on consumers, possible market exclusion due to acquisition price increases and also potential anti-competitive impacts of such new and additional standards, especially to smaller, independent HUD Code producers. As has been demonstrated by U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) research, smaller business entities are disproportionately impacted by additional regulatory costs and burdens. Under pressure from MHI, however, the MHCC fell in line.

In part, the MHCC’s failure to act as a bulwark against new and excessive regulation, at a time when the Trump Administration is actively seeking to reduce regulatory burdens and promote the availability of affordable housing, is a function of years of HUD manipulation of the composition of the MHCC – excluding MHARR staff representatives and tightly restricting non-MHI small industry business representation – while simultaneously prohibiting MHARR participation in MHCC debates while such debates are in progress. This, together with repeated appointments of the same members – over and over again -- has reduced the MHCC to a clone of the hapless, toothless and irrelevant Manufactured Housing Advisory Council established by the original National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974, rather than the legitimate, independent body envisioned by the 2000 Reform Law. Indeed, HUD has even appointed Committee members with no apparent connection to manufactured housing, who appear to actually be COMPETITORS of industry members.

This debasement of the MHCC and the diversion of its mission and function to be a rubber-stamp for HUD and/or the interests of the industry’s largest corporate conglomerates – and its parallel manipulation – will ultimately erase the gains that the industry has made over

the course of decades, including those of the 2000 Reform Law. Indeed, much of the broader industry has been silent as HUD has failed to fully and properly implement certain key reforms of that law, including enhanced federal preemption. But rather than demand remedies to those failure – either by HUD itself or through corrective legislation – MHI appears to be fixated on promoting and advancing the industry’s most costly homes, rather than its traditional, affordable core.

ALL of this is UNACCEPTABLE, and will be aggressively dealt with by MHARR at appropriate levels and by appropriate means going forward.

cc: Other Interested Affordable Housing Proponents

Manufactured Housing Association for Regulatory Reform (MHARR)

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The Manufactured Housing Association for Regulatory Reform is a Washington, D.C. - based national trade association representing the views and interests of independent producers of federally-regulated manufactured housing.

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Part II. Additional [Facts-Evidence-Analysis](#) (FEA) from Sources as Shown plus more MHPProNews Industry [Expert](#) Commentary

In no particular order of importance.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.