



E-Update

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Congressmen Urge EPA Administrator to Halt Expansion of EPA Lead Rule

Last week, Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH) and a bipartisan group of 22 additional members of Congress sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and the Office of Management and Budget expressing concern with the EPA's pursuit of additional clearance testing requirements and expansion to commercial buildings under the EPA Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting (LRRP) Rule.

"Following EPA's flawed implementation of the original rule last year that resulted in too few certified contractors, lack of training opportunities, poor consumer education and inaccurate lead test kits, the agency went on to remove a provision of the rule to allow consumers to opt-out of the rule if there were no pregnant women or children under six present in pre-1978 housing, effectively increasing the number of homes subject to the rule from 38 million to 79 million. Now, EPA is undertaking two more regulatory actions to expand the scope and compliance requirements of the LRRP well beyond the scope and intent of the original rule," the letter states.

Latta, a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has oversight of EPA, was joined on the letter by Reps. Austin Scott (R-GA), Tom Latham (R-IA), Leonard Boswell (D-IA), Dan Burton (R-IN), Steve LaTourette (R-OH), Jean Schmidt (R-OH), Collin Peterson (D-MN), John Kline (R-MN), Denny Rehberg

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(R-MT), Kenny Marchant (R-TX), Louie Gohmert (R-TX), Lynn Westmoreland (R-GA), Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Larry Buchson (R-IN), Steve Womack (R-AR), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Mike Simpson (R-ID), Rick Berg (R-ND), Mick Mulvaney (R-SC), John Sullivan (R-OK), Adrian Smith (R-NE) and Michele Bachmann (R-MN).

NLBMDA and its members spent a great deal of time educating members of Congress about the LRRP and encouraging them to sign Rep. Latta's letter. Thanks to those dealers and federated association executives who raised the issue during the spring Legislative Conference and followed up with their legislators to secure their support.

Please [click here](#) for the final letter.

Bill Introduced to Tackle Home Builders' Credit Crunch

Reps. Gary Miller (R-CA) and Brad Miller (D-NC) have introduced legislation attempting to free up restricted acquisition, development and construction lending by the nation's banks.

The issue has been a top priority for home builders seeking to free up capital needed to spur new construction activity. The "Home Construction Lending Regulatory Improvement Act" (H.R. 1755) was introduced May 5 and has 31 additional cosponsors.

H.R. 1755 would address specific regulatory obstacles to the credit needs of the nation's home builders. In a letter to fellow lawmakers seeking support for their bill, Reps. Gary Miller and Brad Miller said that "one of the major reasons for this lack of credit is the overly restrictive actions by banking regulators which have hindered federal and state chartered banks and thrifts' ability to make and maintain loans to qualified small home builders that have viable projects."

To rectify this situation, the legislation would grant authority and guidance to federal and state banking regulators to ensure that financial institutions that provide financing to America's home builders are permitted to make loans, restore liquidity and provide stable financing to the residential housing sector.

For more information, contact Colleen Levine at colleen@dealer.org.

NLBMDA Joins Letter Addressing Corporate-Only Tax Reform

NLBMDA and other small business industry associations recently joined a letter cautioning the leaders of the Congressional tax

writing committees against tax reform that only targets C corporations, as has been suggested by the Treasury Department.

The letter emphasizes the fact that corporate-only tax reform would negatively impact 95 percent of America's businesses, the "flow-through" entities that employ nearly 70 million Americans.

Please [click here](#) to view the letter.

As tax reform takes shape, NLBMDA continues to monitor proposals. For more information, contact Colleen Levine at colleen@dealer.org.

Energy Efficiency Legislation Introduced Targeting Building Codes

This past week, Sens. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Rob Portman (R-OH) introduced the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (S.963), an energy efficiency bill that targets buildings through model codes and new requirements for federal buildings. The bill aims to achieve net-zero energy use in new construction by 2030. Unlike previous versions of legislation that would have directed the Department of Energy (DOE) to establish a national energy building code, the bill introduced by Shaheen and Portman reflects changes sought by NLBMDA and the building industry to limit undue influence by DOE in the development of national model energy codes and standards. It directs DOE to support the model building code and standards development process and contains language requiring DOE to disclose the methodology behind its energy savings calculations and recommendations. Other provisions of the bill seek to boost private sector investment in building efficiency upgrades by expanding the DOE loan guarantee program and provide financing assistance to manufacturers to make efficiency upgrades.

NLBMDA looks forward to continuing to work with Senators Shaheen and Portman and other members of the Senate Energy Committee to further improve this legislation. It is anticipated that the Committee will hold a hearing on the legislation early in this summer as part of a series of energy bills. Please contact Colleen Levine at colleen@dealer.org with any questions.

House Bill Would Repeal Employer Health Care Mandate

Reps. Charles Boustany (R-LA), Patrick Tiberi (R-OH) and John Barrow (D-GA) introduced bipartisan legislation on May 5 to repeal the employer mandate contained in the 2010 Affordable

Care Act. The "American Job Protection Act" (H.R. 1744) removes the existing mandate that companies with 50 or more full-time workers provide health insurance at government-mandated levels or pay penalties if they fail to do so.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that the employer mandate provision of the ACA will cost 800,000 jobs - and is considered a conservative estimate by many in the employer community. Similar legislation was introduced in the Senate in January (S. 20).

NLBMDA commends Representatives Boustany, Tiberi and Barrow on their leadership and encourages other members of Congress to cosponsor this important legislation.

For more information, contact Colleen Levine at colleen@dealer.org.

LuDPAC Enrollment Open for NLBMDA Members

The 2012 Election Cycle has begun and the Lumber Dealers Political Action Committee (LuDPAC), the political fund of NLBMDA, needs every lumber dealer to participate in the political process! Enroll in LuDPAC and receive monthly political updates straight from Capitol Hill, election information, and invitations to special LuDPAC events. To enroll in LuDPAC, simply [click here](#) and fill out the online [LuDPAC prior approval form](#). Get involved in LuDPAC today!