



# Chalkline

March 2017

## Housing Agenda Goes to Capitol Hill

NAHB Chairman Granger MacDonald and First Vice Chair Randy Noel met with congressional leaders March 2 to urge Congress to pursue a strong national **agenda for housing**.

Discussions were held with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, House Financial Services Committee Chairman Jeb

Hensarling and other influential lawmakers.

The NAHB senior officers made it clear that the association wishes to work with both parties in Congress and the administration to reform the regulatory process, protect vital housing tax incentives that are needed to keep housing and the economy moving forward, and enact comprehensive housing finance reform.

## Calendar of Events

March 16

Board of Directors

April 6

Membership Meeting

April 13

BlueCard Level 1A Recertification

April 20

Board of Directors

April 27

HBA Spring Sporting Clay Shoot

May 4

Membership Meeting

May 4 & 5

East Coast Builders Conference - Cobb Galleria

May 18

Board of Directors

May 23

3 Hour Cont. Ed Class Jackson EMC Building

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## NAHB Applauds Trump WOTUS Directive

President Donald Trump recently honored a campaign promise made to home builders when he signed an executive order directing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to begin the process of rescinding or revising the controversial "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule. NAHB Chairman Granger MacDonald attended the signing ceremony at the White House.

When then-candidate Trump spoke at the NAHB Board of Directors meeting in Miami in August, he vowed to cut WOTUS and other burdensome regulations that drive up the cost of homes for hard-working Americans. Trump quoted a 2016 NAHB study when he noted that 25 percent of the cost of a new home is due to regulation.

President Trump has heard NAHB's serious concerns about the [flawed WOTUS rule](#) imposed by EPA in 2015. The rule goes so far as to regulate man-made ditches and isolated ponds on private property. The executive order is an important first step toward reworking the flawed regulation and moving toward a more sensible WOTUS rule.

## Seeking Volunteers for Codes Development

Even as home builders await the publication this fall of the 2016 model building codes, the International Code Council (ICC) has announced its Call for Code Development [Committee members](#) for the 2018/2019 cycles.

If you want to represent NAHB on an ICC Code Development Committee, please email your completed application to [Neil Burning](#) by March 31.

To download the application and get more information, [visit ICC's website](#).

## Employers Must Use New I-9 Form

In an effort to reduce errors and make it easier to complete the form on a computer, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has published a revised version of [Form I-9](#), Employment Eligibility Verification.

All employers are now required to use it.

Employers must ensure that a Form I-9 is properly completed for every person they hire, both citizens and non-citizens.

And while the changes make it easier to fill out the I-9 form online, a printable version is also available.

## Take Advantage Of Member Savings

NAHB members can enjoy discounts on vehicles, shipping, computers, car rentals, office supplies, insurance and more.

NAHB's purchasing power means big savings on brands you know and trust, like Lowe's, GM, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Dell, UPS and many more.

Many of the members of our local association have already taken advantage of the savings on new vehicles. If you go shopping for a new vehicle, negotiate your best possible deal, and then, let them know about the NAHB discount. The \$500/\$1000 discount comes off the best deal. For more information on the NAHB member advantage program, and to see all of the available discounts, go to [NAHB.org/ma](#). From there, you can link to each vendor and see the details on their exclusive discounts.

## HERS Scores in Home Appraisals

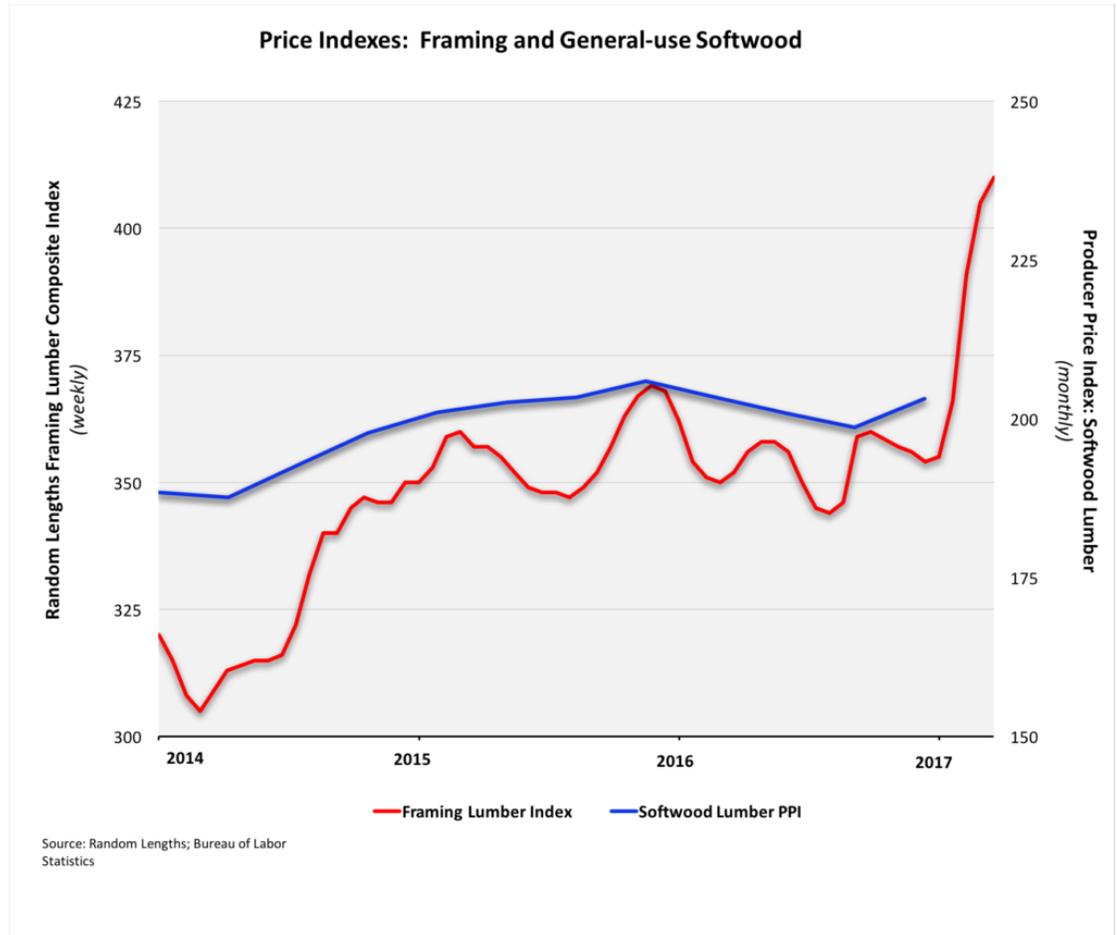
A new partnership between the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) and the Appraisal Institute plans to include [Home Energy Rating System](#) (HERS) scores in appraisals. The database will be available to the Appraisal Institute in states where the rating system is prevalent.

# Lumber Prices Rising Fast in 2017

The price of lumber, from framing to structural panels, has increased in recent weeks, with some prices jumping more than 30%.

Since the start of 2017, the price of framing lumber is up 15%. Prices increased by 5% per week, on average, between Jan. 27 and Feb. 17. In comparison, the average weekly price change over the course of 2016 was 0.2%.

The volatility in lumber prices is due largely to uncertainty about whether there will be a new trade agreement between the U.S. and Canada and whether punitive tariffs or quotas will be slapped on Canadian lumber imports in the absence of a new pact. The trade agreement that has governed imports of softwood lumber from Canada since 2006 effectively expired at the end of 2016. Failure to reach a new agreement is the primary catalyst for market-wide price increases.



## Bluecard Level 1A Recertification

In Georgia, anyone moving dirt on a jobsite, whether with a piece of heavy equipment, or with a shovel, must have a current Level 1A Bluecard. If your Bluecard has expired, or is getting ready to expire, we are offering a recertification class in Gainesville, on April 13th.

To sign up, contact Mike Roberson at the HBA office at (770) 536-8282 or email us at [mike@hbanorthga.com](mailto:mike@hbanorthga.com). We are limited on seating, so, sign up today and don't take a chance on missing this important class.



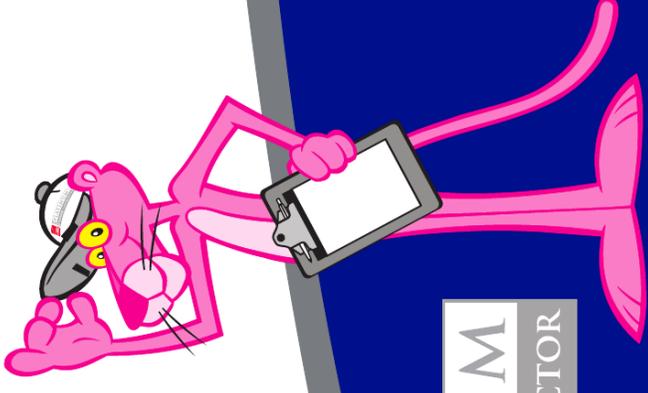
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# Georgia's Builders Invade the Georgia State Capitol

On February 21st, builders from all across Georgia converged on the state capitol and let their presence be known. Every February the HBAG has it's Winter Board Meeting at the capitol, along with their Legislative Rally. This is a time for builders to show up in force and meet with their respective congressmen to discuss issues that are important to our industry. The HBA of North Georgia had six of our members at the Legislative Rally this year: our association President, Lee Wagner along with Cary Rich, Clay Crocker, HBA of North Georgia and HBAG past president, Tim Williams, Sammy Baker, and Mike Roberson. With all the builders wearing their HBAG orange safety vests, we were not going to be missed. We even managed to get Governor and First Lady Deal to show their support by wearing the HBAG orange vests.



Left: Georgia Builders have their picture taken with Governor and First Lady Deal on the capitol steps. Builders throughout Georgia showed up on February 21st at the Capitol to let their presence be known. It is an annual journey to remind our state senators and representatives that the building industry is a very important part of Georgia's Economy.



## Three Hour Continuing Education Class Set for May 23

The HBA of North Georgia is offering a three hour continuing education class for builders before the June 30th Deadline. The Class will be held at the Jackson EMC Building in Gainesville on May 23rd at 9:00am.

All Georgia Builders are required to have either three or six hours of continuing education each year to maintain their license. Although builder licenses are renewed every two years, the continuing education requirement is set on an annual basis. A "Basic Residential License" requires three hours of continuing education each year, while the "Residential/Light Commercial License" requires six hours each year.

To sign up for this class, contact Mike Roberson at the HBA office at (770) 536-8282, or email us at [mike@hbanorthga.com](mailto:mike@hbanorthga.com). We are limited on seating, so, sign up today and don't take a chance on missing this important class.

## Habitat Hall County Teams Up With HBA of North Georgia

Habitat Hall County has undertaken a huge challenge this spring. While building houses is nothing new to Habitat, their new challenge is to build three Habitat Houses at one time.

Tim Williams, the Executive Director of Habitat and a Past President of our association, has taken the bull by the horns and accepted the challenge. In order to build these three houses at once, Tim reached out to the HBA for our assistance. Several of our members have volunteered to help supervise the build over the next several weeks and plan on having all walls standing on the same weekend.

Habitat is always looking for volunteers for their builds, and would appreciate any members of our association that have time to give back to our community. If you are interested in helping with the Habitat builds, contact **Mike Roberson** at the HBA office and he will get you in contact with Habitat Hall County.



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