

Aug. 5, 2008

Dealer named to state regulatory board

CHARLESTON -- A north-central West Virginia manufactured housing dealer is the newest appointment to the state regulatory board that oversees the factory-built housing industry.

Gov. Manchin named Tom Belasco II, owner of Belasco, Inc. of Bridgeport and a member of the 14-person West Virginia Housing Institute Inc. board of directors, to a six-year term on the West Virginia Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Board. He replaces Greg Ahalt of Martinsburg.

Manchin also re-appointed to the six-person panel members Sam Bonasso of Fairmont, Bob Miller of Charleston, and Jack Albert of Cross Lanes.

The West Virginia Housing Institute Inc., the manufactured housing industry's trade association, has urged greater industry membership on the board. The industry wanted Manchin to name retailers to at least half the panel's positions.

Steve Solomon, owner of American Homes in Morgantown, is the only other dealer on the panel. Soloman can be reached at (304) 291-5217 or steve@seeamericanhomes.com.

"We are pleased Governor Manchin named Tom to the board," said WVHI Co-President Kevin Wilfong of Fairmont.

"We believe this is an extremely important precedent that establishes that industry members can serve on this regulatory panel," said WVHI Co-President Steve Brown of Hurricane.

Belasco can be reached at (304) 623-5353 or tbelasco@verizon.net.