

April 9, 2008

### **Industry awaits governor's action on regulatory board appointments**

CHARLESTON – Members of the manufactured housing industry in West Virginia continue to ask Gov. Manchin to act on the most critical issue facing the industry this year.

The West Virginia Housing Institute Inc. believes it is important to have a stronger voice on the West Virginia Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Board (State Board), where five of the six members are not affiliated with the industry.

WVHI believes at least three seats ought to be filled by people in the industry or with a working knowledge of the industry.

To that end, the WVHI board has nominated George Gunnell of The Home Show of Hurricane , Tom Belasco II of Belasco Inc. of Bridgeport, and Huntington lawyer Jason Stemple to serve on the State Board. Manchin has not acted on any of those named.

Terms of two State Board members have expired and two others open this summer.

The Division of Labor is opposed to the industry having seats and has asked Manchin to reject the industry nominees.

Despite a vigorous lobbying effort by members of the WVHI board and a personal meeting between the governor's office and Co-President Steve Brown of Hurricane, board member Phil Fogleman of Summersville and general counsel John Teare of Charleston, no movement has taken place.

Two members with expired terms continue to sit on our regulatory panel and we have very little say-so in what occurs on the State Board.