

TENNESSEE HomeBuilder

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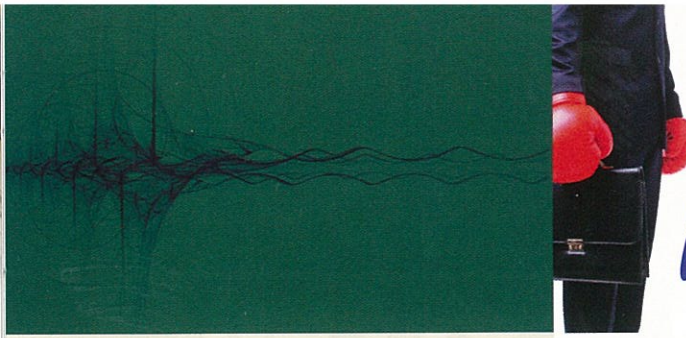
Official Magazine of the Home Builders Association of Tennessee

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Meet Representative
CHARLES CURTISS

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Worker's Compensation Bill

—Tennessee Leaders Explain their Thoughts on this Important Issue

BUILDING PERMITS

Below are the current, total building permits, as reported by Market Graphics through April 2010:

Greater Nashville

The Greater Nashville Eleven County Building Permit Summary includes the counties of Davidson, Sumner, Williamson, Wilson, Rutherford, Cheatham, Robertson, Dickson, Maury, Marshall and Bedford. Year-to-date permits for these counties total 1,692.

The Memphis Metro Area

The Memphis Metro Area includes Crittenden, DeSoto, Fayette, Shelby and Tipton counties. Year-to-date permits for these counties total 625.

Knoxville Area

The Knoxville Area Building Permit Summary includes the counties of Loudon, Roane, Anderson, Knox, Sevier and Blount. Year-to-date permits for these counties total 643.

Montgomery County/Clarksville

The Montgomery County Permit Summary is listed separately. Year-to-date permits total 460.

Metro Chattanooga

The Metro Chattanooga Area Building Permit Summary includes the counties of Bledsoe, Bradley, Catoosa, Hamilton, Marion, Murray, Sequatchie, Walker and Whitfield. Year-to-date permits for these counties total 528.

The overall building permits reported so far in 2010 for these regions total 3,948.

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all involved parties from past negotiations as well as any new parties who chose to be interested. Today, almost eight months later we are presenting HB3163 and SB3591 to correct the problems we discovered with the initial passage of PC 1041.

Homebuilders hold great respect with me. I realize they are literally the backbone of one of the prime economic engines in our economy. When so many individuals, from sole proprietors to businesses of all sizes begin to make their concerns known as they did in this matter- we took them very seriously. My goal throughout this process and in the future will be to help enable businesses like those represented by the Homebuilders, to continue to prosper.

Anytime we can make it easier and more efficient for a business to expand, we will work for that in Tennessee. Legislation we pass and rules we make must not be allowed to place continued barriers to business in this state, regardless of the economic climate. Whenever we stress the very entities which are the foundation of our major economic indicators, such as housing, we put people out of work and force the consumer to pay higher prices.

Representative Joe Pitts



On February 12, 2009 I was invited to attend a Clarksville-Montgomery County Homebuilders Association meeting. The topic of the meeting was Public Chapter 1041. As

I sat in the front of the room listening to the various presentations of the new law, I began to see, as my friend Jimmy Dunn calls it, the "fear in the faces" of the mostly small business owners who knew the new law would ultimately drive them out of business. Shortly after that meeting, I had lunch with Jimmy Dunn and Dana Dewberry and we talked about what could be done to stem the tide of concern among those in the construction industry. From

that lunch, the idea to suspend PC1041 was born and the rest as they say is history. I then began working with the HBAT and NFIB to craft legislation for this year to fix the problems identified a few years ago including employee misclassification. From those ideas to others, the bill currently sponsored by Rep Charles Curtiss passed by an overwhelming majority. I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of this important legislation and am pleased that Rep Curtiss, who is a subject matter expert on workers compensation insurance in the construction industry, is taking the lead in this matter.

The proposed legislation addresses many of the concerns that homebuilders have about workers compensation, chiefly how do we level the playing field so that every contractor plays by the same rules. Bidding becomes more competitive, construction workers are protected with adequate coverage, small business is given the flexibility it needs to provide coverage to those on the front lines, and it stiffens the penalty on those who don't play by the rules. Since the homebuilding industry represents roughly 20% of the workforce of my district, addressing this issue became our number one priority for this session.

As a legislator and policy maker, our focus has to be on creating and saving jobs. Clearly this proposal will save jobs by reducing the regulatory burden on homebuilders. Another key benefit will be the cost of doing business for contractors will be considerably less as a result of this legislation, which translates into more stable home prices for the families of Tennessee. As we have seen from this economic downturn, if the homebuilding industry is robust, our nation as a whole benefits from jobs and a higher quality of life for all our citizens. Let me also plug the Home Builders Association of Tennessee. The HBAT is a strong, professional organization that represents the interests of their members and the industry with great effectiveness. ❖