



February 10, 2011

One More Winter Meeting To Go, Scheduled for Feb. 17

The NJBMDA had a great turnout at its first two winter meetings of the year. The final meeting is planned for February 17 at Erini's, West Trenton. Visit www.njbmda.org to download a registration form, located in the "Upcoming Events" section.

Opinion: NJBA Says Building is Lynchpin to NJ Recovery

For every \$1 million invested in new home construction, a total of \$1.56 million in economic activity results. The construction of 100 single-family homes creates 284 jobs and is estimated to generate \$16 million in local income, as well as \$1.8 million in taxes and other government revenue. But the demand is not there.

A plan for New Jersey's future should include employment projections on the types of jobs that are being created and where. New Jersey has lost a significant number of high-paid positions which are being replaced by lower-paid service and retail jobs. These employees can't afford to buy homes. The high cost of living is also a deterrent for companies that want to relocate here.

Construction is the key to rebuilding New Jersey's economy. If the state wants to be an attractive place to live and conduct business, it must reform its policy framework, develop a workable statewide strategic plan and partner with municipalities to plan for affordable workplace housing. Economic conditions will not rebound until the housing market is on its way to recovery.

OSHA OK to Noise

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) withdrew its proposal to change its interpretation of workplace noise exposure requirements and enforcement. This proposal would have added millions of dollars in new compliance costs for employers.

Under OSHA's proposal, employers would have been required to use extensive "engineering and administrative controls" to protect employees from loud workplace noises instead of primarily using effective personal equipment like earplugs. OSHA's current approach to noise control requirements have proven to be effective in protecting employees from hearing loss.

The OSHA proposal was one of the issues NJBMDA had encouraged Oversight Committee Chair Darrell Issa (R-CA) to review as having a negative impact on job growth and economic recovery.

On the Lighter Side...

"MSNBC has abruptly ended their relationship with Keith Olbermann, and according to his contract he's not allowed back on television for at least six months. Or as industry experts call it, The Conan."

—Conan O'Brien