

GAF is currently supporting two issues:

The HBA of CT intervened in the latest proposed construction stormwater general permit from the CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). The HBA's issue deals specifically with trying to prevent the unauthorized and illegal requirement to review impacts on State listed wildlife and plant species. With few exceptions, the hundreds of species on the State list are not on the federal endangered species list because they're not endangered or threatened; they simply have smaller populations here than non-listed species so CT created its own list. More importantly, CT's species law was never intended to apply to private projects on private land, yet DEEP is doing so. GAF is helping pay for legal and expert consulting fees.

The HBA of CT is likely to help defend a trial court victory in a tax appeal case that held a tax assessor cannot raise the assessed value on a home under construction until the town issues a certificate of occupancy or the home is used for its intended purpose, whichever comes earlier. Defense of this victory on appeal would save all builders thousands of dollars. GAF would support legal fees in the appellate court to preserve the trial court victory.

The last line of Industry Advocacy, when other efforts don't work.

Please Support GAF with your contribution today.**

Name: _____

Co./Firm _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

YES, I want to support the HBA of CT's Government Action Fund. My contribution of:
 \$100; \$250; \$500; \$1,000;
 \$_____ should be applied as checked below:

- For the DEEP stormwater issue
- For the tax appeal litigation
- For either DEEP stormwater issue or tax appeal litigation, as needed
- For any GAF purpose, as needed and as determined by the HBACT's Government Affairs Committee

(Please send us a check or call us with cc info). ** Personal and corporate funds can be used for GAF without limitation. Not deductible as a charitable contribution but may be deductible as a business expense—check with your tax advisor.

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The HBA of CT Government Action Fund (GAF)

The HBA of CT's Gov't Action Fund (GAF) pays for extraordinary outside Regulatory, Legislative & Legal Advocacy efforts.

GAF depends on contributions from HBA members and others who want to support a strong issues advocacy program to protect our industry.

See the Four Types of Advocacy Inside.* A strong GAF account goes a long way to supplement the HBA of CT's robust annual government affairs budget.

See back panel for How You Can Help GAF!

* GAF funds cannot and will not be used for political advocacy!



Four Types of Advocacy

Regulatory Advocacy ...



... includes working with state agencies for positive change. Examples include working with agency staff to improve permitting processes, ensuring effective and rationale administration of licensing & registration laws, and promoting a uniform and reasonable State Building Code.

Legislative Advocacy ...



... includes working with state legislators and their staff to change, defeat or adopt state laws. HBACT's "lobbying" efforts engage people who have been elected to public office and who ultimately cast votes to write or rewrite the law. Through testimony, one-on-one conversations and writing position statements, examples include defeating new, unjustified restrictions on real estate development, the construction or remodeling of homes and on the building business. Proactively, it includes getting adopted into law streamlined permit pro-

grams and pro-housing programs, or repealing unnecessary business regulations, taxes and fees.

Political Advocacy ...



... consists of effectively advocating in the election process to get elected similarly-minded individuals to public office. This is done through HBA members' campaign contributions and volunteer efforts to assist such candidates. The HBACT is non-partisan and issues facing the industry do not cut neatly down party lines; but in all cases we need candidates who understand and will promote the important role residential construction and remodeling plays in our overall economy and quality of life. *Political advocacy is critical to the success of all other forms of advocacy.*

Legal Advocacy ...



... is when an unfavorable or abusive law or enforcement method must be challenged in court via a lawsuit. Association legal advocacy is the last line of defense for the industry. In rare instances, when all other forms of advocacy fail, laws or regulations that severely harm the industry and are adopted over HBA objections, may be illegal or unconstitutional, necessitating a lawsuit. Legal advocacy is very expensive, which is why the HBA engages so actively in regulatory, legislative and political advocacy. Still there are times when the only remedy that remains is legal action.

HBA of CT relies on its Gov't Action Fund (GAF) to support the association's legal advocacy as well as support unusual outside costs that help our regulatory and legislative advocacy (e.g., to pay for expert research, PR campaigns, or extraordinary lobbying help to win issues for the industry).

Association advocacy takes place on the municipal, state and federal levels. The **HBA of Connecticut** is the chief advocate for CT's residential development and construction industry at the state government level.

The 5 local associations in CT not only assist the HBACT by organizing member contacts with state legislators but also take the lead on municipal advocacy (e.g., with mayors & 1st selectmen, P&Z and wetland boards, and local building officials). The Nat'l Assoc. of Home Builders (NAHB) is the chief advocate for the nationwide industry at the federal level.