



**HOME BUILDERS
ASSOCIATION OF
CONNECTICUT, INC.**

1245 Farmington Ave., 2nd Fl.
West Hartford, CT 06107
Tel: 860-521-1905
Fax: 860-521-3107
www.hbact.org

2009-2011 Leadership

George LaCava
Chairman of the Board
and President

Liz Verna
First VP & Gov't Affairs
Committee Chair

Barry Rosa
VP & Treasurer

Bill Ferrigno
Immediate Past
Chairman & President

Staff

Bill Ethier, CAE, Chief
Executive Officer

George Rafael, AICP,
Director, LGA & Member
Services

Lisa Kidder, Director,
Public Relations &
Communications

Joanne Hoerrner,
Administrative & Events
Coordinator

MEMBERS CAN HELP!

Everyone has a state Representative or a state Senator — get to know them! Go to www.hbact.org and click on **Find Your Legislators** under our Gov't Affairs menu. Find their phone number or e-mail, start talking to them about your business issues and teach them about our industry. Also, attend our Day at the Capitol and your Local Association's legislative meetings.

State Government Affairs

HBACT and Local HBAs Together Solving *State* Issues!

- The State Government Affairs Program has been and continues to be the primary purpose of the HBACT (the state HBA) since our formation in 1960.
- State Government Affairs is about protecting our industry's interests in all 3 branches of *state* government: the state legislature, state agencies and state courts.
- It's about producing positive changes in state statutes and state agency regulations and defeating proposed new state laws and regulations that would adversely affect our industry.
- Federal government issues & concerns relating to U.S. Representatives and Senators are handled by the National Association of Home Builders.

What Does the HBA of CT Do?

The HBACT "lobbies" both the state legislature (CT General Assembly) and many state agencies to represent our industry's views. Lobbying is all about educating decision-makers (i.e., state Representatives, state Senators, and agency Commissioners and staff) about the problems the industry has and our proposals to fix them. It's about explaining the consequences of proposed new laws and regulations and urging their passage or defeat, as the case may be. Occasionally, members have issues that escalate to the courts and we try to help out in highly significant cases with advice, research or a "friend-of-the-court" brief.

The HBACT Government Affairs Committee controls our policies and priorities, which are implemented by Bill Ethier, HBACT's CEO and in-house lobbyist. Bill reviews all legislation that is proposed in the CT General Assembly (annually, over 3,000 bills), tracks the 150-300 bills that impact our industry, writes and delivers testimony at public hearings on the most significant bills, and watches over the many hundreds of amendments and changes that can occur throughout the legislative process. We also review agency regulations from many state agencies (DEP, DECD, DPH, DOT/STC, DCP, DPS/Codes & Standards Committee, and others). It's a year-round, intensive task.

Bill is assisted by our outside contract lobbyist, Gaffney, Bennett & Associates, and the HBACT's other professional staff, who conduct research to support our positions and help get our messages out through public relations to improve our lobbying successes.

HBACT works to build coalitions with many allies who agree with our positions and who help deliver supporting messages to decision-makers.

We host an annual Home Building Industry Day at the Capitol, assisted by each of the Local Associations in CT who organize attendance by HBA members to personally deliver our policy messages to their state legislators. It's easy, it's FREE and nothing is more important to your business future.

We also strongly encourage and support Local Association legislative dinners, breakfasts and other connections that improve relationships between our members and legislators.