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New Single Family Home Permits Up 38% Over Last Year— ***Ahead of State Action to Impose Tens of Thousands in New Code Requirement Costs***

Lansing, MI - The Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBAM) announced today that single family housing permits across the state are up 38 percent over the same period last year. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, in February 2023 a total of 647 permits were pulled, compared to this year's February total of 999. The total year-to-date permit numbers rose to 1,780 across the state compared to 1,219 last year at this time.

"The Governor said the solution to our housing crisis is build-baby-build and, through the first two months of the year, that is happening in many parts of the state," said HBAM CEO Bob Filka. "Demand and the need for more housing is high. There are too few existing housing options available and we've had a mild winter. This, along with the potential of significant new housing costs being imposed by LARA later this year, with new costly proposed code requirements, explains the acceleration we're seeing. Those considering building new have heard about the possibility of having to pay for sprinklers and a host of other unnecessary code requirements that will raise the cost of a new home by \$20,000 to \$40,000 or more. It makes sense that many are jumping off the fence and making the decision to build now."

HBAM noted that LARA concluded their public comment period on their proposed building code changes last week. The legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) will soon receive the final set of proposed changes. "We remain hopeful that LARA will rethink their unnecessary and high-cost proposals," said Filka. "We've recommended lower cost alternatives that won't detract from all the positive work the Governor and leaders in the legislature have helped push forward to address our housing crisis. Let's fix the damn codes so the build-baby-build train keeps rolling."

The Home Builders Association of Michigan, a professional trade association comprised of 18 local homebuilder associations around the state and their 5,000 builder, subcontractor and supplier members. As the state's largest association representing construction-related sectors, the HBA of Michigan works to positively promote the building industry and impact legislative, regulatory and legal issues affecting housing attainability.

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