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Governor Candidates Meet with Home Builders Association Leaders— *As attainable housing shortage reaches crisis point*

Lansing, MI - Today the Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBAM) announced that year-to-date new home construction has shrunk by nearly 20 percent compared to this time last year. Through April of this year 4,761 single-family building permits were pulled across the state. Last year at this time 5,875 permits were issued. This data was released as HBAM's Board of Directors was poised to meet today with the five candidates seeking the republican nomination for Governor.

"With supply chain challenges and building material prices up more than 30% since the beginning of the pandemic, interest rates rising, ongoing workforce shortages and new state code requirements in the works, building homes at attainable prices for the average Michigan family is becoming impossible," noted Bob Filka, HBAM CEO. "Those running for our state's highest office need to understand this challenge and we wanted the leaders from our association to hear directly from those who may ultimately serve as Governor." While HBAM's Board is meeting with Republican candidates today, a similar invitation has been sent to Governor Whitmer to address their leaders later this summer.

According to a recent study, for every thousand-dollar increase in the cost of a new house in Michigan, more than 5,400 households are priced out of being able to afford a home. "We're hitting a cost ceiling that is pushing more and more Michigan families away from being able to purchase a home and it's time for policymakers to help deal with the dysfunction in today's housing marketplace," noted Filka.

A bi-partisan package of bills promoted by the Housing Michigan Coalition (a diverse group of more than 100 business and non-profit organizations including HBAM) passed the State Senate several months ago and has been awaiting action in the House. The State's Housing Authority has completed a first-ever, five-year statewide housing plan but the recommendations within that report have not yet been released. Filka concluded: "The typical new home being built in our state has doubled in cost...doubled...in five-year's time. There is no silver bullet to cure this situation, but it is time to act on the ideas contained in these bills and the MHSDA Report."

The Home Builders Association of Michigan, a professional trade association comprised of 20 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 affordability.

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