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Housing Permits in Michigan Increase 13.9% in the First Quarter of 2017

(Lansing, MI) – Housing permits for single family home construction increased 13.9% in Michigan during the first three months of 2017. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 3,229 permits issued in the first quarter of 2017, compared to 2,833 for the same period a year ago. The first quarter increase is encouraging news for the home building industry, which has been experiencing modest growth since the end of the recession. The Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBAM) earlier forecasted a modest 4.2% increase for the entire year.

“While it is certainly good news to experience a double digit increase for the first quarter, it is also important to note that we have not hit the height of the building season, which begins to occur in the second quarter, said HBAM CEO Bob Filka. “We remain concerned about issues holding down the housing rebound in our state including a lack of workers, limited lot availability and rising building costs.”

The modest growth being experienced in homebuilding is an issue that impacts more than just homebuilders. Potential buyers are facing a limited supply of available homes, rising prices which are forcing many potential homeowners to the sidelines, and sluggish revenues for local governments and schools that rely on tax revenues that homebuilders traditionally deliver to their communities.

HBAM recently conducted eight community meetings throughout the state to hear from builders, state and local officials and the general public. The meetings were designed to elicit concerns and develop strategies to bolster the housing industry and Michigan’s economy. The results of those community meetings will be incorporated into a comprehensive set of proposals that HBAM will be announcing in June.

“We anticipate a series of policy proposals that we believe will address challenges that are holding back housing and the entire state of Michigan,” said Filka. “The report will address issues including excessive and inconsistent government regulation, enforcing code and land development laws, and efforts to train and attract individuals to skilled trades careers.”

The Home Builders Association of Michigan is a professional trade association comprised of 24 local homebuilder associations around the state and their builder, subcontractor and supplier members. HBA of Michigan works to positively promote the building industry and impact legislative, regulatory and legal issues affecting housing affordability.

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