

## MEDIA ADVISORY FROM



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### **Homebuilders To Voice Concerns About Looming Housing Shortage at Housing America's Families Forum on November 15**

(Lansing, MI) – Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBAM) CEO Robert Filka will join leaders from around the country for a discussion on critical housing issues in America at an upcoming summit in Detroit. *The Housing America's Families Forum will take place on Wednesday, November 15 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Marriott Detroit at the Renaissance Center.*

The Forum brings together some of the nation's leading experts including Dr. Ben Carson, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros and Rip Rapson, Kresge Foundation president and CEO. Discussions will center around affordable housing, the future of the nation's finance system and the connection between poor housing and poor health. Homebuilders also want to include discussions around critical issues raised in a report issued earlier this year by HBAM that forecast a looming housing shortage in Michigan.

"We must continue to keep the focus on issues that are hampering housing investment and raising costs to consumers," said Filka. "The policies and practices that are taking place in Michigan are literally pricing middle class citizens out of the housing market. It is time for a wake-up call for local and state officials and all of our citizens in Michigan."

**Media Note: Mr. Filka is available for media interviews before and during the event on November 15. Please contact Ross Woodstock to arrange an interview.**

The HBAM report released in June entitled: "*Housing Challenges Threaten Our Economic Growth, Where Will Ten Million Michiganders Live?*" contains 13 recommendations arrived at following a recent series of regional housing summits around the state where more than 250 people testified on the challenges and opportunities affecting residential construction in Michigan. The recommendations are intended to stimulate discussion with local and state government officials that ultimately leads to more housing investment and economic growth in Michigan.

The HBAM action plan focuses on three main areas that were identified at the regional summits as major factors in hampering the housing industry in Michigan; attracting housing investment, reducing regulatory delays and attracting people to fill a severe shortage of skilled workers.

*The Home Builders Association of Michigan is the largest professional trade association representing construction in Michigan. 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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