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Housing Permits in Michigan Increase 8.8% through November of 2017

(Lansing, MI) – Housing permits for single family home construction increased 8.8% in Michigan through the end of November 2017. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 15,732 permits issued in the first 11 months of 2017, compared to 14,460 for the same period a year ago. The rate of increase is slightly higher than the annual housing permit forecast for Michigan issued in January 2017 by the Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBAM). That report predicted a full year increase of 4.2% for the home building industry.

“We are finishing the year on an upswing which will provide some nice momentum as we head into 2018,” said HBAM CEO Bob Filka. “As we look ahead to 2018, we remain concerned about issues that continue to constrain our growth including a shortage of skilled labor, lack of available lots and rising costs.”

HBAM has warned of a looming housing shortage in Michigan when it issued a proposed 13-point action plan to aggressively attack challenges faced by the industry. Copies of the HBAM report, “Housing Challenges Threaten Our Economic Growth—Where Will Ten Million Michiganders Live?” can be downloaded at HBAofMichigan.com.

In December, HBAM issued its annual forecast of the housing market in which HBAM predicted that single-family new home construction would rise by just 1 percent in the coming year.

“The challenges we have been talking about particularly the lack of skilled workers will continue to limit the growth of the housing industry in Michigan,” said Filka. “It is imperative as a state that we make these issues a leading priority not only for the good of our industry but for the entire Michigan economy.”

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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