

## NEWS RELEASE FROM



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### **Cautious Optimism About Homebuilding Industry at the Forefront of 2018 International Builder Show**

(Lansing, MI) – More than 500 people connected to Michigan’s housing industry are expected to attend the 2018 International Building Show (IBS), which is being held January 9-11 in Orlando, Florida. The IBS is the largest annual light construction show in the world with miles of the latest and most advanced building products and services ever assembled.

“Though our builders have experienced a modest recovery in recent years, we head to Orlando knowing that challenges remain that are inhibiting our ability to realize more robust growth,” noted Robert Filka, CEO of Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBAM). “Among those issues are a chronic shortage of skilled labor, burdensome government regulations and a lack of buildable lots in many communities.”

HBAM recently issued its annual forecast for Michigan’s housing industry which predicts a modest one percent growth in new housing permits in 2018. Though the industry has experienced growth in recent years, the annual number of new homes being constructed in Michigan remains well below historical averages and the levels that most experts say is needed to avoid an eventual housing shortage in Michigan.

“We must continue to communicate to our policymakers in Washington and Lansing and especially at the local level the importance of a strong housing market to our economy,” said Filka. “Home sales means jobs and investment in our local communities, and is a critical source of revenue for local and state government and schools.”

*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. HBAM works to positively promote the building industry and impact legislative, regulatory and legal issues affecting housing affordability.*

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**Editor’s note: Media outlets interested in interviewing people from their local areas attending IBS should contact Ross Woodstock at Kolt Communications. Robert Filka and other HBA Michigan officials attending the conference are also available for interviews.**

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