

## **Jan. 23, 2017 Trump Becomes 45th President of the United States**

### **MHI Advocates for Elevated Role of Manufactured Housing in Trump Administration**

On Friday, January 20, 2017, Donald J. Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States. In his inauguration speech, President Trump called for unity and said that under his presidency power would be brought back to the people. "What truly matters is not which party controls our government, but whether our government is controlled by the people," Trump said.

"January 20th, 2017, will be remembered as the day the people became the rulers of this nation again. The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer."

Based on an analysis of election outcomes conducted by MHI, many of the forgotten men and women Trump was referring to live in manufactured housing. States with significant manufactured housing populations made a difference in this year's elections.

Trump won working class counties in Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania that previously voted for President Obama in one if not both of the previous elections.

Among those counties, the percentage of citizens living in manufactured housing is materially greater than that of the states' population as a whole. For example:

- In Ohio, six of the seven counties that switched votes from Obama 2012 to Trump in 2016 were counties that have a greater proportion of residents living in manufactured housing than the state as a whole. The counties include, Ashtabula, Belmont, Jefferson, Monroe, Pike and Trumbull. The manufactured housing occupancy rates in these counties range from 5.1% to 28.7% vs. just 4.4% of the entire state population.
- In Wisconsin, where the state voted for the Republican Presidential candidate for the first time in a generation, thirteen counties voted for President Obama in 2008 and 2012, twenty-two counties voted for Obama at least once, and all of them subsequently voted for Trump in 2016. Adams, Forest and Sawyer counties, who voted for Obama twice, all swung strongly for Trump. They also have a manufactured housing occupancy rate of 11.6% to 59.1% as opposed to the statewide average of 4.2%.
- In Michigan, of the counties voting for Obama in 2008 and 2012 but Trump in 2016, at least half had a disproportionate amount of voters occupying manufactured housing. The most extreme example was Lake County with 100% occupancy living in manufactured housing. In 2012, Obama won Lake County by a margin of 52-47%, while Trump won the county by a margin of 59-36%.

MHI is working to ensure the impact of the forgotten men and women living in manufactured housing across the nation gain Washington's attention.

We are actively highlighting for Congress and the incoming Administration the federal laws and regulations of the last several years that are unfairly penalizing retirees, veterans, rural residents and working families by unnecessarily increasing the cost of manufactured housing and creating an illiquid market for the financing of manufactured homes.

Most recently, we are actively involved with members of the Senate Banking Committee as they consider the nomination of Dr. Ben Carson as President Trump's Housing Secretary. We are highlighting for them the need to repeal or amend regulations that increase the cost of manufactured homes, and

we are calling for an elevation of the role of manufactured housing within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

For example, at MHI's request Senator Heller (R-Nevada) asked Dr. Carson to describe in writing his view of the role of manufactured housing in the provision of affordable housing in rural areas.

Dr. Carson responded, "I do see manufactured housing playing an important role in providing affordable housing in rural areas. I think it's important to ensure HUD's policies promote access to this valuable resource."

MHI is working with Senate Banking Committee Chairman Crapo (R-ID), Housing Subcommittee Chairman Scott (R-SC), Financial Institutions Subcommittee Chairman Toomey (R-PA), bill sponsor Donnelly (D-IN), bill cosponsor Cotton (R-AR) – all long-standing supporters of manufactured housing – and other members of the Senate Banking Committee to highlight the importance of manufactured housing with Dr. Carson and ask that he ensure HUD embraces manufactured homes as a resource for affordable homeownership and rental housing.

At his confirmation hearing on January 12, Dr. Carson testified that he plans to shift the HUD focus to empowering individuals to make their way out of poverty rather than on the simple provision of housing subsidies.

Manufactured housing is not subsidized and it offers affordable homeownership and rental options. MHI has argued to members of the Banking Committee that in order for manufactured housing to achieve its full potential in addressing the affordable housing needs of the nation, HUD's manufactured housing regulations need to account for cost impacts.

Consumers want choices for their homes and regulations should not unnecessarily limit those choices or add to the cost of the home. This is actually required in statute but has not been the experience for some regulations that have been recently proposed. MHI will work aggressively with Congress and the Administration to change these regulations and elevate the role of manufactured housing...

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