

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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Editor's Message



Wanted: Horses Mouths by Daniel Holland

"Our products are used in America to help make the housing industry the engine of the American economy. It is for these reasons that people in government want to hear your views."

Are you a political activist? Most of us would be quick to answer no. Should you be involved in making certain that your views are known by people in government? Yes, because if you don't tell them, they won't know.

WTCA will be hosting its Open Quarterly meeting in Washington, D.C. on May 5-7. Each year we go to our nation's Capitol to talk to our representatives in the House and Senate and many of the regulatory agencies of the federal government that impact our businesses. Each year I hear the same thing from people who do this for the very first time: "I am amazed at how easy this is to do. They really were interested in what I had to say."

Consider why someone in government would want to hear your views. If you are like most of us, you don't (and can't) make enormous campaign contributions. Why would they listen to you? Because they won't be accused of listening to you just because you gave money. Moreover, we component manufacturers are small businesses made up of real people who work hard and pay taxes. We are not multi-national conglomerates with global operations and influence. We are, for the most part, closely held, American-owned and managed companies who employ hard-working, tax-paying Americans. Our products are used in America to help make the housing industry the engine of the American economy. It is for these reasons that people in government want to hear your views.

Our government is "of the people, by the people, and for the people" (excerpt from President Lincoln's Gettysburg address, November 19, 1863). If you never communicate with your Congressional representative, for example, the representative democracy system that originally shaped our country breaks down. Put yourself in the shoes of a government official. Where do you get real information? The newspaper, the television, CNN? Those in government need to hear some things directly from you.

Maybe you will consider making the trip to Washington, D.C. in May. I hope so. But more than anything else, I really hope you will begin to get involved in your local and state government. Local application of law has a big impact on your business and nobody can have the influence on the process as well as you can. Local building codes, city ordinances, property taxes, sales and use taxes, workers' compensation, and countless other important areas where government affects your business are local and state issues.

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