



Publisher's Message

A Look at Legal & Legislative Issues

New legislation, legal provisions and green building are some of the hot topics covered in this issue.

by Libby Maurer

2008 has been quite a year for keeping up with the happenings of the U.S. government. From the presidential race to plans for stimulating the economy and addressing the nation's lending practices, our friends in Washington have been very busy! In fact, you could make the case that developing long-standing relationships with legislators has never been more important for component manufacturers and their suppliers. For these reasons and many more, we're fortunate to have the opportunity to go to Washington, DC each spring with our peers to sit down with our elected officials. Now in its eighth year, the **SBC Legislative Conference** took place May 14-16. Turn to page 42 for a look back at some of the top issues discussed at this year's conference.

Our industry, like many others, is in the midst of "green building," a movement that has great potential to change our approach to business. There is opportunity for those who choose to embrace it and bring green building products to the marketplace. Over the last several years, countless municipalities across the nation have passed legislation calling for new government buildings to become certified under one green building standard or another. Since both wood and steel components contribute to such certification programs, this provides component manufacturers with the ability to participate, whether through a governmental mandate or because a building owner or architect desire to build green. However, the country's focus on going green could prove damaging to our industry if we aren't careful. One emerging issue is recent talk in Congress about developing new policies to address climate change. Referred to as "cap and trade" climate bills, the legislation (if passed), would set a limit on carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel use and require businesses that exceed their limit to purchase their way to carbon neutrality. This is a concept that is very important for business owners in our industry to understand. Check out **The Big Picture** on page 30. Hopefully we and others will be able to work together with our elected officials to come up with a reasonable approach to this very challenging issue.

While green building is an obscure concept to many component manufacturers, Deltec Homes, Inc. of North Carolina has been practicing sustainable building techniques for almost 40 years. Both in the component shop and on the jobsite, Deltec makes every effort possible to minimize its impact on the environment. Find out about what drives their commitment to going green on page 36.

Can you name seven of the most dangerous contract provisions to watch for when reviewing your customer's contract forms? On page 24, Kent Pagel makes it easy for you by identifying seven potential deal breakers. From indemnity to pay if paid clauses, you'll want to make sure the contract reviewers at your company know to raise a red flag when they're found in contracts.

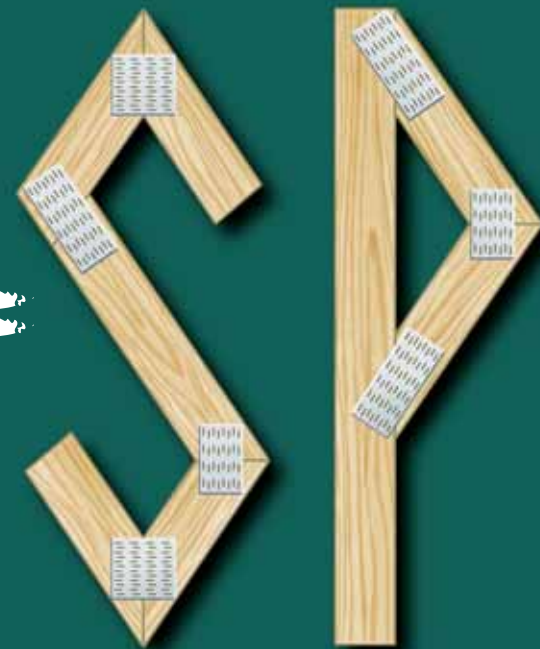
You don't have to participate in the SBC Legislative Conference to be involved in the legislation and issues that affect your business. Some of the most important advocacy work happens at the local level, in your community and your backyard. Tell us about your experience rallying for our industry at editor@sbcmag.info, whether it is being active in a local campaign, giving a truss plant tour or knowing a legislator. **SBC**

at a glance

- This issue is devoted to Legal and Legislative topics. View a recap of the 2008 SBC Legislative Conference on page 42.
- Turn to page 30 for The Big Picture on "cap and trade" climate legislation.
- Don't miss the seven most important contract provisions to look for when reviewing your customer's contract forms on page 24.

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