



## Recap



Congressman Pete Hoekstra (R-MI) stopped to talk to conference participants during the 2009 Legislative Conference. While this is his last term in Congress (he has announced he's going to campaign for Governor in Michigan), he said he is doing everything he can to prevent the Employee Free Choice Act of 2009 (EFCA) from becoming law. Citing several negative consequences the bill's provisions would have on U.S. businesses, Hoekstra urged everyone to contact their lawmakers and keep up the pressure to oppose this dangerous legislation. For more information on EFCA and our industry's grassroots efforts to defeat it, read the June/July bonus feature at [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info).

### at a glance

- The current Congress is addressing many issues including labor laws, energy policy, health care and immigration reforms.
- In May, SBCA members held 78 meetings with lawmakers from 17 states about our industry's positions on these issues.
- For more information, go to additional online content for the June/July issue at [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info).

# The Do-Everything Congress

by Sean D. Shields

**L**egislative Conference participants from 17 states hit Capitol Hill in May to discuss several issues, including labor laws, energy policy, health care, and immigration reform. What they discovered was Congressional leadership intends to pass sweeping legislation in every one of these areas. As opposed to the “do-nothing” 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, there now appears to be a “do-everything” 111<sup>th</sup> Congress in session. A few participants noted that even the more seasoned lawmakers appeared a bit dazed by how much was being addressed so quickly. While the exact language of any of these bills is still far from finalized, what is clear is that if they do pass, they will have a significant impact on your business and its bottom line. Here's a quick summary of our industry's position on some of the key public policy debates about to occur in Washington, DC. (For more details and the talking points used at the conference, please go to **Support Docs** at [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info).)

**Labor Laws:** The structural building components (SBC) industry opposes current efforts by organized labor to convince Congress to change national labor laws through the “Employee Free Choice Act of 2009,” because it will undermine our nation's right to work laws, erode worker privacy, infringe on basic voting rights in our democracy, and provide an avenue for the federal government to control the wages and benefits of private companies.

**Energy:** In considering various proposals to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases to address global climate change, and to increase efficiency in energy consumption and generation, the SBC industry believes Congress should review the effect of changes to energy policy on: citizens' free choice of where they can live and work; affordable housing; and, the quality and quantity of domestic jobs. Our industry supports legislation that focuses on energy efficiency solutions and avoids changes to energy policy that will have a negative impact on residential, multi-family and light-commercial construction.

**Health Care:** As Congress considers reforming our nation's health care system, the SBC industry urges lawmakers to consider solutions that will focus on preserving both employers' and employees' free choice in health care, as well as maintaining the incentives for businesses to offer health care coverage. Our industry supports legislation that works in cooperation with the private sector to lower the costs associated with health care and provides additional opportunities for employers to affordably insure their employees.

**Immigration:** There has never been a better time to fix our nation's immigration system. The current economic downturn has significantly decreased the existing population of immigrants and has curtailed the tide of illegal immigration into the U.S. Our industry supports comprehensive immigration reform that will: provide tools for employers that are easy to use to ensure compliance with the law; and, provide additional pathways to legal immigration, which will expand immigrant home purchases while ensuring U.S. employers can meet ongoing employment demands.

With 78 individual meetings with members of Congress, the Conference was a great opportunity for our industry to continue building valuable relationships and increase

awareness of our industry and its concerns. Here is what some participants had to say about their lawmaker meetings:

- Ben Hershey (Senator Jon Kyl): "My Senator was in support of our position on all the major issues we discussed, and he was also willing to potentially provide assistance on a federal grant opportunity that would be very beneficial for the industry."
- Mike Murray (Representative Dina Titus): "My Congresswoman and I had a very positive discussion on the issues, and I felt I was able to quickly develop a relationship that will allow me to call her directly on future issues. I felt I had a very similar experience when I met with my Senator [Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid]."
- Teri Miller (Senator George Voinovich): "My Senator's legislative aide was blown away by our talking points. He said he had never seen an interest group that presented their stances so clearly."
- Scott Ward (Representative John Fleming): "My Congressman was just elected to Congress, so this was a great opportunity to meet him for the first time and introduce him to our business and the industry. He seemed like a great guy and someone who is eager to listen and help."
- Mike Karceski (Representative Donald Manzullo): "I was invited to participate in an energy summit being organized by my Congressman back in the district to discuss the various issues surrounding 'cap-and-trade' proposals."
- Clyde Barlett (Senator Jim Bunning): "Both of my Senators [Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and Bunning] provided a reality check that the Democrats now have a filibuster-proof majority in Congress, which will allow them to pass virtually anything they want."

For more feedback from Legislative Conference participants, go to **Support Docs** at [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info). **SBC**



## MASENGILL MACHINERY CO.

Production Machinery Specialists Since 1963

**New • Used • Refurbished • Reconditioned**

**Over 50,000 sq. ft. warehouse filled with equipment to meet your needs:**

2 - ADT Wall Panel Lines 1 - Alpine 4x2 Web-PRO(2006) 2 - Alpine Finish Rollers (14' & 156") 1 - Alpine Speed Roll TW Floortruss Machine 5 - ASI Stretch Roller Bed Trailers 1 - ASI Roller Bed Trailer 2 - Clary 329 Short Cutters II 1 - Holtec TransCut II 1 - Jager TTS Auto Stacker 2 - Klaisler RolSplice 2 - Klaisler G2450 Floor Gantry w/Auto-Stackers 5 - Klaisler Powered Out-feed Roller Systems	2 - Koskovich Auto-OMNI, 5 Heads with Ink Jet Printer 1 - Mango Automated Wall Extruder (2006) 30- Material Handling Carts(Steel) 2 - Monet FWA 500 2 - Monet B500 Component Saws 2 - Pacific Automation Auto 8's 2 - Pacific Automation 5 Strand Live Decks 4 - Pacific Automation Auto-Roll 14TR 1 - Pacific Automation Auto-Roll 14' capacity 2 - Pacific Automation 125' J-Slot Gantry Lines	with Koskovich Jet-Set Automation Hardware 1 - Pacific Automation Floor Gantry w/Auto-Stacker 1 - Paslode Sub Component Nailer 1 - Robbins Valley Set Shaper 1 - Robbins 7 Station Lumber Carousel 1 - Speedcut MetraCut w/Mango Automation 1 - Speedcut EWC Web Saw 1 - Spida RA Saw with Hain Measuring Unit 1 - TCT Model 1150 Lineal Saw (2006) 1 - Virtek I-Joist Processing (VIP) System (2006)
---	---	--



1002 Buffalo Trail • Morristown, TN 37814  
 Office: (888)USE-WOOD (873-9663)  
 Fax: (423)586-0483  
 info@masengills.com

[www.masengills.com](http://www.masengills.com)

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/masengill.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/masengill.htm)

# THERE IS ONLY **ONE** COMPANY

that offers so many choices for the panel and truss industry. Increase productivity with our three brands of tools and fasteners: Paslode, Toolmatic and Duo-fast. We provide the total systems for both hand-held and automated applications. Our experience and innovation will let you increase speed and profit.

Only ITW Panel Fastening Systems offers you so



PFS

PANEL FASTENING SYSTEMS

AN ITW COMPANY

309 Rand Road, Suite 356 – Arlington Heights, IL 60004  
[www.itwpfs.com](http://www.itwpfs.com)

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/itw.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/itw.htm)

# MANY SOLUTIONS.

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING **COMPONENTS**<sup>TM</sup>

THE FUTURE OF FRAMING

[www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info)

Dear Reader:

Copyright © 2009 by Truss Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. For permission to reprint materials from **SBC Magazine**, call 608/310-6706 or email [editor@sbcmag.info](mailto:editor@sbcmag.info).

The mission of **Structural Building Components Magazine (SBC)** is to increase the knowledge of and to promote the common interests of those engaged in manufacturing and distributing of structural building components to ensure growth and continuity, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. SBC will take a leadership role on behalf of the component industry in disseminating technical and marketplace information, and will maintain advisory committees consisting of the most knowledgeable professionals in the industry. The opinions expressed in SBC are those of the authors and those quoted solely, and are not necessarily the opinions of any affiliated association (SBCA) .



6300 Enterprise Lane • Suite 200 • Madison, WI 53719  
608/310-6706 phone • 608/271-7006 fax  
[www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info) • [admgr@sbcmag.info](mailto:admgr@sbcmag.info)