



Texas Association of Builders
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www.TexasBuilders.org

Sunset Commission Unanimously Recommends Continuation of TRCC

With last weeks actions, the Sunset Commission gave a young state agency a requirement to provide stronger consumer protections and to more effectively help homeowners and home builders resolve identified construction defects. The Texas Association of Builders commends the Sunset commissioners for realizing the benefit of the Texas Residential Construction Commission and recommending positive changes to allow it to better fulfill its mission to benefit both consumers and the residential construction industry.

TAB supports the recommendations adopted by the Commission that will shorten the time frame of the State-Sponsored Inspection and Dispute Resolution Process (SIRP) and make it more responsive for consumers who want builders to fix construction defects. TAB applauds recommendations that give the TRCC more authority to crack down on bad builders. Already the TRCC has removed more than 500 builders from the marketplace by either denying their registration or shutting them down.

The Texas Association of Builders looks forward to working with the Texas Legislature, starting in January, to explore any necessary changes to the TRCC to further enable the agency to fulfill its mission.

Login for Great Information

TAB's new Web site is up and running. The newly designed site hosts a fresh face and loads of new information and features. A TAB member may now login to the site using their first and last name with no capitalization or space (johndoe) and their NAHB Personal Identification Number (PIN) assigned to them when they joined their local association. This unique login gives a member access to their personal record, *Texas Builder* magazine, Green Building Initiative training and exclusive TAB member information.

Another vital component of the new Web site is TAB's Grassroots Action Center powered by VoterVoice. You can login and check on the status of current bills and amendments, using the member's score card, and learn how your legislators voted on key issues, receive TAB's monthly *Legislative Line* newsletter, and take part in TAB's legislative efforts.

Rally for RALLY DAY 2009

Now that the election is over, it is time to begin thinking about the upcoming 81st Legislative Session and Rally Day 2009. The Texas Association of Builders' Rally Day is one of the most important events our state and local HBA member-

ship can attend, and we are looking forward to a tremendous turnout. When our members storm the Capitol and talk directly to their elected officials, the impact is immediate and impossible to ignore! We had enormous success with Rally Day in the 80th Legislative Session with more than 1,100 members from across the state attending. This year our goal is to have more than 1,500 Texas home builders, remodelers, developers and associate members from all 33 of our local associations ascend those steps at the State Capitol building on Wednesday, February 25.

We need your help to continue to protect our industry, and ask that you make the commitment now to travel to Austin on Wednesday, February 25 for Rally Day 2009 to be a part of this special - and effective - legislative event.



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TAB Winter Board Meetings

TAB's Winter Board meetings will be held **February 26 - 27** at the Driskill Hotel in Austin following Rally Day. The Board of Director's Meeting will be held on a new day and time, Friday afternoon, **February 27, 1:30 - 4 p.m.** Please make note of the NEW meeting time.

Complete registration and schedule can be found online at www.TexasBuilders.org.



County Inspection Q & A

Changes in title 16 of the Property Code that became effective on September 1, 2008, require that builders and remodelers who undertake certain residential construction projects in areas outside municipalities have those projects inspected at several stages of construction. This requirement for interim construction inspections, which are similar to the code compliance inspections required on residential projects built within most municipalities, provides home buyers and homeowners who live outside municipalities the same level of assurance of quality construction that those with construction projects subject to municipal inspections enjoy. Because this requirement is new for construction outside municipalities, the Texas Residential Construction Commission (TRCC) anticipates that some builders and remodelers will either be unaware of the requirement at the time of construction or may forget to have a phase inspection performed before moving to the next phase of construction. Complete information can be found by clicking on the **County Inspection** link below.