2014 National Policy Agenda
About NLBMDA

The National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association (NLBMDA) represents its members in the national public policy arena, with emphasis on efforts to 1) promote the industry and educate legislators and public policy personnel; and 2) assist legislative, regulatory, standard-setting, and other governmental or private bodies in the development of laws, regulations, and policies affecting lumber and building material dealers, their customers, and suppliers. Founded in 1917, the association has over 5,000 members operating single or multiple lumber yards and component plants serving homebuilders, subcontractors, general contractors, and consumers in the new construction, repair, and remodeling of residential and light commercial structures.

Contact NLBMDA

National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
2025 M Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036-3309
Phone: (202) 367-1169
Fax: (202) 367-2169
info@dealer.org
www.dealer.org
@NLBMDA

Copyright © 2014 by the National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
Dear Policymakers:

As lawmakers in the 113th Congress continue their work to restore growth and economic opportunity for our country, the nation’s building supply chain continues its recovery from the historic downturn in housing. The National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association (NLBMDA) stands ready to work with policymakers on job creation and sound fiscal policies that will restore housing as the cornerstone of a strong economy. We also encourage you to roll back the red tape and costly mandates that have dampened economic growth.

Environmental regulation has imposed costly burdens on the building supply industry that have little or no demonstrated health benefits. The Environmental Protection Agency’s Lead Rule for residential renovation, imposed in 2010 without adequate time for training and consumer education, continues to challenge lumber and building material dealers and our customers. Moreover, the Agency’s failure to approve accurate lead-paint test kits that comply with the rule exposes us to undue liability.

Unfounded and unfair lawsuits are also having an increasingly negative effect on the ability of lumber and building material dealers to run their businesses and contribute to their communities. NLBMDA supports the proposed Innocent Sellers Fairness Act that would protect distributors and retailers from unwarranted product liability lawsuits. A product liability suit that consumes time and limited financial resources is a threat dealers can ill afford – particularly for cases where the product failure or damage was caused without the retailer’s knowledge or control.

Comprehensive tax reform is needed to restore the competitiveness of America’s lumber and building material dealers, but should also protect the mortgage interest deduction and promote and preserve the value of homeownership. Any reforms to the housing finance system should allow for additional private capital while preserving the availability of 30-year, fixed rate mortgages to creditworthy buyers. In addition, as green building becomes an increasing share of construction, standard-setting entities should recognize the preferability of wood as an inherently renewable resource.

We look forward to working with Congress to review and roll back regulatory red tape and to pass common-sense, pro-growth policies that will keep the building supply industry and our national economy on a path of sustained growth.

Sincerely,

Christopher Yenrick
Chair, NLBMDA
President, Smith Phillips Building Supply
Table of Contents

3 Housing & Construction Policy
5 Tax & Economic Policy
6 Legal Reform & Consumer Protection
7 Workforce Policy
9 Environment, Health & Safety
11 Product Supply & Trade
13 Energy Policy
14 Transportation Policy
15 Highway Safety
16 NLBMDA 2014 Board of Directors
Housing & Construction Policy

Housing
As suppliers to the building and construction industry, lumber and building material dealers play a critical role in promoting home ownership and advancing affordable housing. As the housing market slowly recovers from a historic downturn, it is imperative that government intervention not further jeopardize our economic viability. Sound fiscal policies are needed to restore homebuyer confidence and to spur lending that will facilitate new construction activity. In the interim, incentives for energy-efficient home improvements can also be a powerful tool to restore lost jobs across the housing sector. NLBMDA will continue to work with policymakers to support responsible homeownership and lending practices that promote and preserve the value of home ownership. We support reinstating higher conforming loan limits for Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Federal Housing Administration-insured home loans to ensure greater mortgage liquidity and to provide certainty for an already fragile housing market. We believe that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) must continue to provide support for struggling and prospective home buyers, and we support adequate funding for its grants and loan programs. We will also continue to advocate for disaster recovery assistance to help homeowners and businesses recover from national disasters.

Principles:
• NLBMDA supports sound fiscal policies to support America's housing recovery and restore housing as the cornerstone of our national economy.
• NLBMDA supports policies to promote responsible home ownership and to improve and streamline oversight of the nation’s credit and mortgage entities.
• NLBMDA believes any reform of the housing finance system must include a federal backstop to ensure that 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages and reliable mortgage financing remain readily available and affordable.
• NLBMDA supports affordable housing programs that make the dream of home ownership available to more Americans.
• NLBMDA believes any strategy to jump-start the economy must include a robust small business component that allows entrepreneurs access to capital and credit, and retain existing cash flow from operations in order to grow and expand their enterprises.
• NLBMDA supports disaster recovery assistance that returns displaced residents to their homes and encourages the timely rebuilding of disaster-impacted areas.
• NLBMDA supports changes to the National Flood Insurance Program to reflect a slower increase in actuarial rates and to allow sufficient time between the publishing of the new maps and their adoption by local jurisdictions.

Green Building
Building material dealers occupy a unique place between product manufacturers, builders, and homeowners and are well-situated to bring new technologies and environmentally preferred products into the supply chain. NLBMDA members
are increasingly participating in the residential green building movement as they respond to the growing interest in environmentally friendly building materials. Even as the housing market has been slow to recover, dealers report an increase in demand for “green” products. NLBMDA supports responsible forestry practices and our members are committed to sourcing products from sustainably managed forests. We believe that the various, commonly-recognized forest management certification bodies for North America serve as exemplary regimes, and we support the development and use of an “eco-label” on wood products to more readily identify them as responsibly-sourced and appropriate “green” building products. Green building provides an opportunity to promote wood as the most sustainable and “green” choice for construction, and rating systems play an important role. We believe that the market will determine which program or programs are preferable for certain applications and are concerned that stifling competition in this rapidly developing field could have unintended consequences of limiting further innovation. We urge Congress to support green building without imposing mandates that give preference to only one “green” rating system.

Principles:
• As green building becomes more prevalent, NLBMDA will support voluntary programs that promote sound science, provided they do not result in costly mandates on the supply chain or unfairly limit competition among certified wood products or other materials.
• NLBMDA seeks to increase the use of wood products in residential and commercial construction, and will work to encourage green building standard-setting entities to recognize the preferability of wood as an inherently renewable resource.
• NLBMDA supports the inclusion of all credible forest management certification schemes in green building standards and programs, including the recognition of those most-widely employed in North America. NLBMDA believes that each standard setting body must employ open, transparent and true consensus-building processes and procedures.

• NLBMDA supports voluntary programs and incentives to increase energy-efficient retrofitting of existing homes and buildings, and increased use of environmentally preferable building materials in new construction.

Building Codes
Building material dealers strive to bring the latest product innovations to market and must maintain knowledge of the latest developments in homebuilding technology and building codes. NLBMDA will work with the International Code Council (ICC), National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), and other relevant bodies to provide feedback on building codes that impact housing affordability. It is important that code and policy changes provide meaningful safety or environmental benefits and reflect sound science and industry best practices.

Principles:
• NLBMDA supports the consensus-based model in the code development process, and will oppose attempts by the federal government to impose national building codes that do not consider existing model codes or requirements that could hinder our housing recovery.
• NLBMDA believes code development should balance safety and/or environmental benefits with the impact on housing affordability.
• NLBMDA will support building code changes that reflect sound science and industry best practices.
• NLBMDA supports the rights of individual states to adopt or amend codes specific to their jurisdictions.
Comprehensive tax reform is needed to restore the competitiveness of America’s small businesses. We oppose efforts to repeal the mortgage interest deduction, which would have an adverse effect on the entire housing market, potentially reducing home values and slowing sales. With many building material dealers organized as pass-through entities, such as S-Corporations, partnerships, and sole proprietorships, their ability to access capital is severely impaired by the current tax code. Any tax reform proposal must consider the impact that individual income tax rates have on the many small businesses in the lumber and building material industry structured as pass-through entities. NLBMDA continues to maintain that tax incentives must be made permanent to reduce the lingering uncertainty for business owners. Building material dealers are also concerned that proposed accounting changes and the looming Social Security crisis could undercut our economic recovery and increase the tax burden on employers.

Principles:

• NLBMDA supports the mortgage interest deduction and opposes efforts that would eliminate or substantially modify it.

• NLBMDA supports tax policies that level the playing field for small businesses and do not unfairly disadvantage S-Corporations and/or family-owned companies.

• NLBMDA opposes increases to personal income tax rates that are also tax hikes on the many small businesses that are structured as pass-through entities (S-Corporations, partnerships, or sole proprietorships).

• NLBMDA supports modernization of the S-Corporation to improve small business access to capital and competitiveness in these challenging economic times.

• NLBMDA supports full and permanent repeal of the estate tax. NLBMDA will consider partial reform proposals that recognize the high asset base of lumber and building material dealers’ businesses and set the exemption level high enough to adequately cover the value of non-cash assets such as land, inventory, and equipment.

• NLBMDA supports tax credits and incentives to encourage consumer purchases of energy-efficient products, materials, and construction.

• NLBMDA supports making permanent business tax incentives, such as bonus depreciation and increased Section 179 expensing limits, to provide certainty for business owners.

• NLBMDA supports upholding Last-In First-Out (LIFO) accounting practices. Repealing LIFO accounting would cause companies using LIFO to report their LIFO reserves as income, resulting in a massive tax increase on many building material dealers.

• NLBMDA supports the current capital gains tax rate to help small businesses create jobs, contribute to economic growth, and invest in their future.

• NLBMDA supports the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit as an effective means to expand the supply of affordable rental housing and promote job creation in the construction industry.

• NLBMDA believes that the mounting Social Security crisis must be addressed as soon as possible and in such a way that does not saddle employers with crippling employment taxes.
Legal Reform & Consumer Protection

Legal Reform

While significant legal system reforms have been enacted over the past decade, there are still several areas where lawsuit abuse continues to threaten legitimate business activity, such as the sale of products at the retail level. In these instances, unfounded and unfair lawsuits are increasing and they are crippling the ability of dealers to run their businesses. Surveys of NLBMDA members have found that more than one in four had been the subject of a lawsuit over a product they sold but did not manufacture, alter, or install. Under current law, sellers can be equally and wholly liable for damages regardless of any wrongdoing. According to Small Business Administration estimates, it can cost as much as $100,000 to defend against a predatory lawsuit, which often forces dealers to settle the suit regardless of the merit of the case. These frivolous claims drive up the costs of insurance and force small business owners to spend time away from their daily operations. While some states have enacted product seller protections, a federal standard is needed to provide uniformity and protect building material dealers and other similar types of businesses who operate across state lines. Frivolous lawsuits can also be reduced through strengthening of Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, to ensure adequate enforcement and levying of sanctions against attorneys who repeatedly file baseless claims that clog up our courts and waste defendants’ time and resources. Moreover, NLBMDA will oppose any efforts to repeal previously enacted legal protections, including class action reform, or to otherwise subvert the legislative process to create new or expanded causes of action.

Principles:
• NLBMDA supports the Innocent Sellers Fairness Act (H.R. 2746) and other liability reform legislation that would preserve victims’ access to courts while holding sellers harmless when they have not acted negligently in the design, manufacture, sale, or installation of a legal product.
• NLBMDA supports efforts that limit frivolous lawsuits and that penalize those who file baseless claims as a means to extract settlements from innocent business owners.
• NLBMDA opposes back door attempts to create new causes of action through the regulatory process or to repeal previously enacted legal protections.

Consumer Protection

NLBMDA supports reasonable protections for consumers and homeowners. Identity theft is a legitimate concern for consumers and businesses alike. Building material dealers have established relationships with contractors and customers in their communities, and as businesses, they have traditionally been identified as “low risk” entities in relation to identity theft. Yet increased regulations often impose costly and time-consuming administrative burdens on businesses such as dealers. Identity theft prevention measures should be flexible and easy for small businesses and building material dealers to administer. Some homeowners and homebuilders are also challenged by complex economic circumstances, but bankruptcy reforms enacted in 2005 must not be undone in a misguided attempt to enable judges to alter the terms of mortgages during bankruptcy proceedings. Prior to the 2005 Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, building material dealers were frequently left with uncollectable accounts after a homeowner or builder filed for bankruptcy. Allowing judges to alter mortgages after the fact would lend further instability to the mortgage market and make it even more difficult for prospective buyers to obtain favorable mortgage terms. Consumer protection also extends to the convenience of electronic commerce. Building material dealers also oppose efforts to increase the cap on debit card fees, which have helped not only retailers, but also consumers save money.

Principles:
• NLBMDA understands and supports the need to protect the privacy of customers’ financial information and other personally-identifiable information. NLBMDA believes that attempts to mandate safeguarding or other measures to prevent identity theft should not impose unnecessary administrative and paperwork burdens on low-risk businesses such as building material dealers.
• NLBMDA opposes efforts to repeal or weaken the bankruptcy reforms of 2005.
• NLBMDA supports the continuation of debit card swipe fee reforms that have created real economic savings for building material dealers and their customers, and supports similar swipe fee reforms for credit card transactions.
Workforce Policy

Health Care

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has imposed significant new mandates on employers who already struggle to provide affordable healthcare benefits to their employees. A 2010 survey of building material dealers found that a majority are less likely to hire new employees as a direct result of the healthcare mandate. Unfortunately, the small business relief contained in the Act is targeted to only the smallest of businesses, leaving out the majority of building material dealers. NLBMDA is working with the broader business community to identify and seek to repeal and/or reform the more onerous portions of the law. NLBMDA also supports efforts to repeal annual limits on flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and other valuable pre-tax saving options for employees.

Principles:
- NLBMDA remains concerned about the burden of meeting the requirements of the healthcare reform law and supports reforms to reduce its impact on employers’ ability to provide required benefit levels to employees.
- NLBMDA opposes the law’s limits on flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and other pre-tax saving options for employees.

Democracy in the Workplace

NLBMDA continues to oppose any efforts to roll back workers’ rights to secret ballot elections in determining union representation. As the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has announced plans to revisit a number of prior decisions impacting employers’ rights to communicate with their employees during union organizing activities, NLBMDA will continue to monitor legislative and regulatory activity on collective bargaining. NLBMDA also opposes labor interests’ efforts to seek mandatory, binding arbitration in union contract negotiations which will restrict the ability of employers and employees to negotiate mutually acceptable employment terms.

Principles:
- NLBMDA believes that secret ballot elections should be preserved and are the fairest way to guarantee the rights of employees to freely choose whether or not to be represented by a union.
- NLBMDA opposes efforts to institute mandatory binding arbitration in union representation disputes and other efforts that would restrict employers’ ability to freely communicate with their employees regarding union representation.

Continued next page
Workforce Policy (Continued)

- NLBMDA supports legislation guaranteeing an employer’s ability to participate in a fair union election and ensuring employees are able to make fully informed decisions about joining a union.
- NLBMDA opposes regulatory efforts to reduce the amount of time employers have to communicate with their employees between the time they learn that a union is trying to organize the workforce and the election.
- NLBMDA opposes federal regulations requiring private employers to post notice in the workplace advising employees of their right to join a union.
- NLBMDA opposes efforts by the NLRB to hear and decide cases in instances where it has been determined by a federal court that there was not a quorum at the time of the decision or that appointments of members to the Board is unconstitutional.

Immigration Reform

Immigration reform continues to be a hot button issue before Congress and state governments, and presents many challenges for the lumber and building material industry and the entire construction sector. At the heart of the debate is the proper balance between protection of national security and the need to ensure that employers continue to have access to a steady pool of available workers. Recent reform proposals would have imposed significant time and paperwork costs on employers and could have led to extreme labor shortages, posing a threat to the strength of the construction sector. While NLBMDA believes that our nation’s immigration system is in critical need of reform, we are also concerned that policies could place an undue burden on employers and would expose them to significant liability by forcing employers to certify the work eligibility of their employees without government-provided tools that ensure accuracy. Sanctions against employers should be reserved for intentional violations of the law, and employers should be provided adequate resources to assess their hiring practices and comply with all current and future requirements.

Principles:
- NLBMDA will support immigration policies and employment verification procedures that are reasonable and do not create unfair employment standards or impose financial hardship through costly fines or mandates for small businesses.
- NLBMDA supports mandatory use of E-Verify by employers to reduce paperwork burdens, but believes that any requirement should have an appropriate phase-in period for small businesses.

Family & Medical Leave Policies

The lumber and building material industry is composed of many small and family-owned businesses who seek to provide the best possible work environments to retain employees in today’s competitive environment. Proposals to expand the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and/or impose mandatory paid sick leave would create considerable burdens on small businesses in the lumber and building material industry. Government mandates take away employers’ and employees’ ability to negotiate flexible benefits packages and increase the time, paperwork and cost of complying with labor laws.

Principle:
- NLBMDA opposes government mandates that eliminate employers’ ability to negotiate flexible leave policies with their employees and will oppose policies that drive up the costs of doing business.
Environment, Health & Safety

Environmental Regulation

NLBMDA and the lumber and building material industry understand the need to reasonably ensure the safety and health of our customers, homeowners, and contractors. Moreover, we are concerned about the increased use of “sue and settle” tactics that circumvent the traditional rulemaking process and force overly burdensome regulation onto businesses. Unfortunately, federal agencies have undertaken aggressive rulemaking that over-regulates our businesses with little or no demonstrated health benefits.

For example, the Environmental Protection Agency’s rush to promulgate and enforce the Lead: Renovation, Repair, and Painting (LRRP) Rule in 2010 significantly hampered the lumber and building material industry. Lack of training opportunities, unreasonable requirements such as the removal of the “Opt Out” clause after the rule took effect, and lack of accurate test kits have all severely impacted dealers, whether they have installed sales operations or not. Dealers lost business at a time when the economy most needed home remodeling to help add jobs and economic activity. Dealers were also forced to educate their customers about the Rule in the absence of adequate education by the EPA. Moreover, the Agency’s failure to supply accurate test kits to comply with the Rule exposes building material dealers to undue liability. NLBMDA continues to monitor implementation of the LRRP Rule to ensure that the impacts on the lumber and building material industry and home remodeling sector are considered. NLBMDA will also work with the appropriate oversight committees to seek legislative assistance when needed to reduce the compliance burden on the industry.

Continued next page
Environment, Health & Safety (Continued)

**Principles:**
- NLBMDA believes new environmental regulations must reflect sound science and take into account the impact on the regulated community.
- NLBMDA will work with Congress to reduce the regulatory compliance burden posed by existing and proposed regulations on the lumber and building material industry.
- NLBMDA supports restoring the “Opt-Out” clause to the Lead: Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule.
- NLBMDA believes EPA should renew its efforts to identify a lead-paint test kit that meets the LRRP Rule’s standard for false positives, and suspend enforcement of the rule until a test kit meeting the false positive standard is identified and commercially-available.
- NLBMDA opposes “sue and settle” tactics that circumvent the traditional rulemaking process while imposing significant economic costs on businesses.

**Safety & Training**

The Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy estimates that our federal regulatory system costs employers $1 trillion annually, with a disproportionate share of that burden falling on small and mid-size businesses. The lumber and building material industry is closely regulated by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) and NLBMDA will continue to provide the latest compliance materials to dealers to help them meet the various requirements under OSHA regulations. Dealers, primarily small businesses, have a vested interest in protecting the health and safety of their employees at their yards and on the road, as lost time due to injury impacts the employee and employer alike. The recordkeeping and training requirements mandated by OSHA and other agencies can pose a significant cost burden on employers. Other OSHA regulatory efforts can be overly-broad, covering activities that do not create the risks or hazards intended to be addressed, or overly-complicated, making compliance expensive and enforcement difficult and ambiguous. NLBMDA believes such mandates must be carefully reviewed to ensure new regulations balance the need to promote safety with the time and cost burden of compliance. NLBMDA continues to work in partnership with OSHA to improve communication and provide compliance assistance with the lumber and building material industry.

**Principles:**
- Safety of our employees is of utmost importance, therefore NLBMDA will support workplace safety regulations that effectively enhance health and safety and that are cost-effective and technologically attainable without imposing excessive costs or recordkeeping requirements on the lumber and building material dealers.
- NLBMDA encourages policymakers to refrain from the proposal and promulgation of overly broad or “one-size-fits-all” rules and regulations. In order to allow employers to provide appropriate training and protections to employees, NLBMDA believes policymakers should clearly frame all issues and fashion appropriate remedies.
- NLBMDA supports rulemaking policies that recognize existing voluntary, consensus-based standards as viable alternatives to command-style regulations.
Product Supply & Trade

Product Supply

Lumber makes up the largest single product category supplied by building material dealers, and NLBMDA has long had an interest in supporting a stable supply of domestic and foreign wood products needed to supply our nation’s homebuilders and construction sector. NLBMDA supports responsible forest management policies that promote the environmental sustainability of wood as a resource and maintain the health and continued viability of our nation’s federal forests. While we support the goals of the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and other major environmental programs, we believe that private property rights must be protected and balanced with environmental objectives. We support cooperative efforts between industry and governmental agencies to work proactively to ensure the environmental and ecological health of forests and private lands. The industry is actively engaged with forest certification issues and green building programs that promote wood as an environmentally preferable building product and works in tandem with forest product and building supply manufacturers to bring certified building products into the supply chain. We believe the carbon capture potential of appropriately managed forest land is a strong endorsement for increased emphasis on certified wood use in green construction.

Design values for dimensional lumber have long played an important role in ensuring safe and lasting construction. NLBMDA supports appropriate established and timed design value changes such that no change will threaten the current use or inventory of any species or dimension. Sudden changes in these design values without an open, consistent, and transparent process can lead to great uncertainty in the marketplace and unanticipated liability for dealers. A change in design values without an appropriate period of time for the marketplace to adjust threatens to devalue the lumber inventory and creates unnecessary stress on all members of the supply chain at a time when our nation’s housing market can ill-afford it.

Principles:

- NLBMDA supports responsible federal forest management that maintains access to domestic wood and supports the health and viability of our public forests.
- NLBMDA supports free market efforts to increase the availability of domestically produced wood products and building materials, and supports measures to increase the competitiveness of U.S.-based wood products manufacturers.

Continued next page
Product Supply & Trade (Continued)

• NLBMDA supports efforts to revise the design values of species of lumber that adhere to an open, consistent, and transparent process that assures participation of all parties in the supply chain and allow the marketplace a reasonable period of time to plan for any changes.

• NLBMDA supports legislation clarifying the regulatory guidelines and enforcement rules of the Lacey Act to include the establishment of an “innocent owner” provision.

Trade

Restrictions on access to domestic timber has made lumber and building material dealers increasingly reliant on imports from Canada and other nations, with as much as one-third of the framing lumber used in the U.S. coming from Canada each year. The species of wood imported from Canada, and required for framing in many parts of the U.S., is not available in sufficient quantities domestically. Likewise, materials must be imported from Europe and Central and South America to meet our builders’ demand and homeowners’ expectations.

Even in challenging economic times, we cannot meet this demand with domestic products alone. While we believe that fair trade policies must be adhered to, to ensure a reasonably level playing field for domestic and foreign manufacturers, we oppose tariffs and other restrictions that serve only to restrict availability and increase costs to U.S. consumers. We also continue to oppose attempts to reinstate the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act (CDSOA), which provides a cash incentive for the filing of trade actions and has been ruled in violation of NAFTA and the WTO.

Principles:

• NLBMDA supports free trade in wood and lumber products.
• NLBMDA opposes efforts to reopen the softwood lumber agreement between the U.S. and Canada.
• NLBMDA opposes tariffs, export quotas, and other trade restrictions that restrict the availability of products demanded by our customers and drive up the cost of housing to the detriment of prospective homebuyers and U.S. consumers.
Energy Policy

Building material dealers rely on access to affordable fuels to transport products and make deliveries to customers and job-sites. Volatility in the price of fuel is an additional burden the industry can ill afford in the current economic circumstances. The flawed “cap-and-trade” approach to regulate emissions and impose a carbon tax is of grave concern to building material dealers, where additional costs are passed on to the consumer and impact housing affordability. NLBMDA’s members believe that Congress must pragmatically seek to increase the availability of our domestic energy resources to stabilize fuel price fluctuations that undercut our economic recovery.

Moreover, comprehensive energy legislation should emphasize the energy efficiency gains that can be achieved through voluntary incentives for homeowners, commercial building owners, and builders, and not through federal mandates that infringe upon the current consensus-based model code process.

As Congress explores alternative fuel sources, NLBMDA encourages Congress to provide favorable tax treatment for forest products biomass initiatives, which support maximum utilization of our timber resources and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. NLBMDA continues to support policies that promote energy-efficiency in residential and commercial construction, and tax credits and other incentives for consumers who purchase energy-efficient appliances and materials.

Principles:

- NLBMDA supports efforts to improve home energy-efficiency through tax credits and incentives for energy-efficient products, materials, and construction.
- NLBMDA supports efforts to increase our domestic energy supply and voluntary access to alternative fuels to provide relief from volatile fuel costs.
- NLBMDA supports free market approaches to developing alternative fuels and opposes government mandates that eliminate choice or further drive up the cost of fuel.
- NLBMDA opposes a national energy tax that would cripple our economic recovery and supports efforts to rein in the activities of the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate greenhouse gas emissions absent congressional authority.
Transportation Policy

The lumber and building material industry relies on the ability to receive inventory in a timely manner and to make on-time deliveries to our customers. Deteriorating infrastructure and heavy congestion on our nation’s roads and rails is a growing threat to the industry. In many small towns and regions of the country, rail service is not an option, which forces more building material freight onto federal highways and local roads. Nearly 90 percent of NLBMDA members report that congestion is a significant burden to their operations. The current weight limitation on freight trailers often results in partially filled vehicles on the road, costing time and money and increasing the amount of pollution per vehicle miles traveled. NLBMDA believes that the federal maximum weight limit for tractor trailers should be increased, coupled with an additional axle to improve safety, in order to more efficiently move freight on our roads. Currently, the patchwork of various state weight limits, and higher limits for trucks in Canada and Mexico, makes shipping logistics unnecessarily complex.

Principles:
- NLBMDA supports increased infrastructure funding to reduce congestion on our roads.
- NLBMDA supports increasing the gross vehicle weight to 97,000 pounds on federal interstate highways for vehicles equipped with an additional axle as a way to address the environmental, economic, and safety challenges facing our nation’s freight transportation network.
- NLBMDA supports efforts to improve rail competitiveness for the timely and cost-effective receipt of goods by rail.
- NLBMDA is concerned about costly delays and increased fees in obtaining imported products due to increased inspection activity at US ports and borders and will support efforts that streamline reporting requirements to ensure timely flow of goods across the border.
Highway Safety

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration does not differentiate between long haul and local carriers when drafting or enforcing safety regulations, which requires building material dealers to expend considerable time and effort to ensure they are in compliance with all relevant regulations. While building material dealers place considerable emphasis on driver training, drivers are also salespeople and product experts for whom driving is often only a portion of their job responsibilities. Compliance information must be made more readily available and user-friendly to support non-trucking businesses in understanding their obligations. Likewise, new training requirements and safety regulations must be developed with consideration of their applicability to short haul carriers.

Principles:

• Safety of our employees is of utmost importance.
• NLBMDA supports a more rational approach for addressing highway safety issues for long haul and local carriers and recognizes the need for more effective, “plain English” guidance for non-trucking businesses.
• NLBMDA believes motor carrier safety regulations, such as a proposed rule requiring the use of electronic onboard recorders used to track drivers’ hours of service, must promote safety without imposing unnecessarily high cost and compliance burdens on employers.
NATIONAL LUMBER AND BUILDING MATERIAL DEALERS ASSOCIATION
2014 Board of Directors

Chair
Chris Yenrick
Smith Phillips Building Supply
Winston-Salem, NC

Chair-Elect
J.D. Saunders
Economy Lumber
Campbell, CA

First Vice Chair
Scott Yates
Denver Lumber Co.
Denver, CO

Second Vice Chair
Davis Boland
Boland Maloney Lumber
Louisville, KY

Treasurer
Linda Nussbaum
Kleet Lumber Company Inc.
Huntington, NY

Immediate Past Chair
Chuck Bankston
Bankston Lumber Co.
Barnesville, GA

President & CEO
Michael O’Brien, CAE
NLBMDA
Washington, DC

Board Members
John Bolt
DeLeeuw Lumber Co.
Holland, MI

Alan Clark
Clark’s Building &
Decorating Center
Hot Springs, AR

Julia Collings
Ferguson Lumber Corp.
Danville, IN

Roger Dankel
Simpson Strong-Tie
McKinney, TX

Scott Engquist
Engquist Lumber Co.
Harcourt, IA

Gary Farber
Gordon Lumber
Fremont, OH

Rita Ferris
Northeastern Retail Lumber
Association
Rensselaer, NY

David Garrett
Eastern Building Material
Dealers Association
Lancaster, PA

Steve Gerard
Builders General Supply Co.
Little Silver, NJ

Max Guetz
Alpine Lumber
Parker, CO

Jon Hallgren
Curtis Lumber Co.
Ballston Spa, NY

G. Scott Huguely
Galliher & Huguely Associates
Washington, DC

Curtis Jack
Coquille Supply
Coquille, OR

George Lester
The Lester Group, Inc.
Martinsville, VA

William “Skip” Miller
Miller Lumber Company
Augusta, KY

Michael Moore
T.W. Perry Enterprises
Gaithersburg, MD

Gary Nackers
Do It Best Corp.
Fort Wayne, IN

Matt Peterson
Mead Clark Lumber
Santa Rosa, CA

Reid Poyer
Salt River Wood
Seminole, OK

Gary Raven
Builders FirstSource
Dallas, TX

Jay Short
Short & Paulk Supply Co.
Tifton, GA

Jim Smith
Home Hardware Centers
Natchez, MS

W. E. “Ed” Van Meter
Central Tie & Lumber Co.
Petersburg, WV